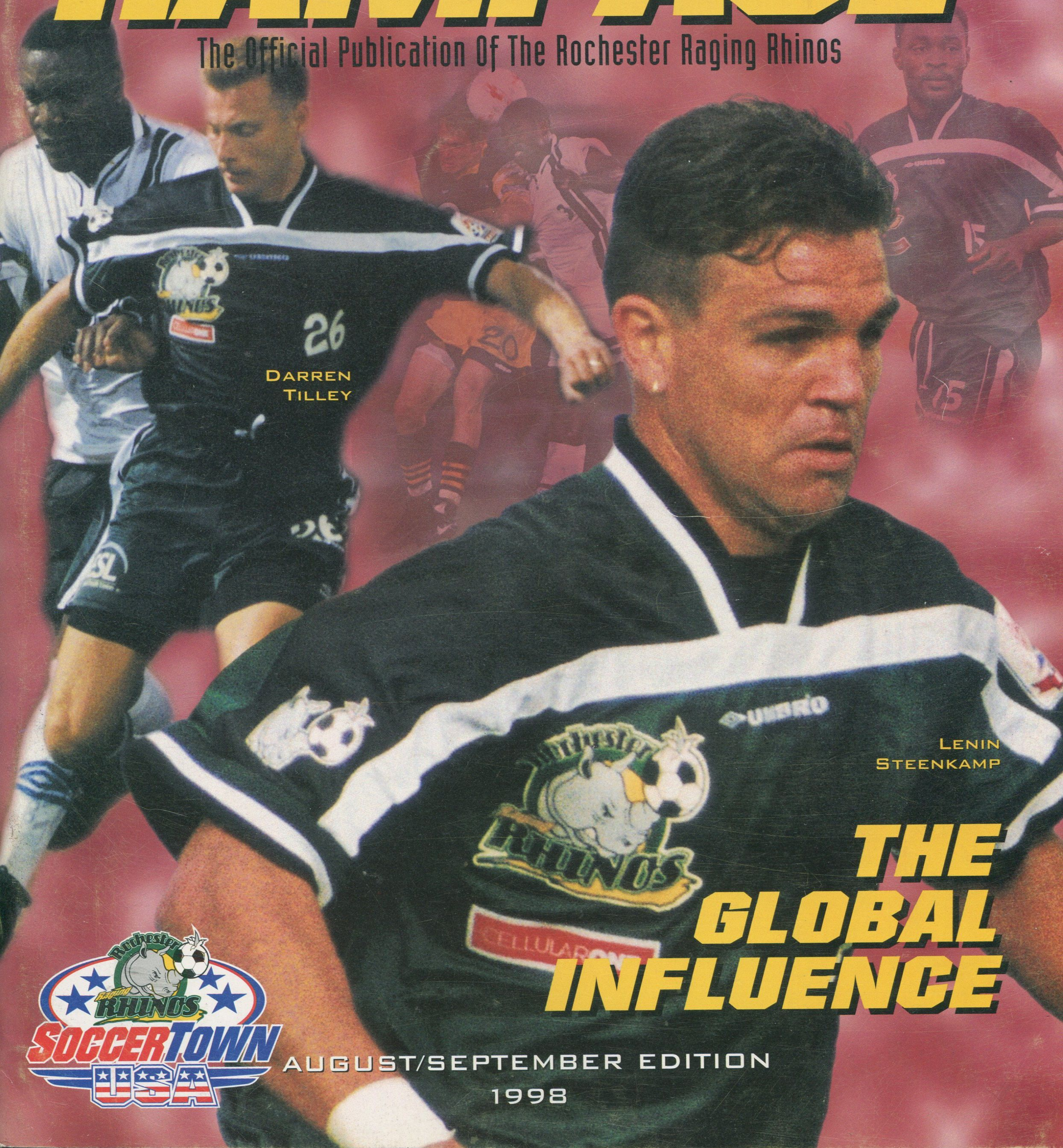
Aug 1-98
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RAMPAGE

The Official Publication Of The Rochester Raging Rhinos



THE GLOBAL INFLUENCE

SOCCERTOWN USA

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER EDITION
1998



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CORRECTION: THE JULY EDITION'S ARTICLE "THE NEW DEFENDERS" WAS WRITTEN BY GENE BATTAGLIA.

DESIGN AND TYPOGRAPHY BY: QUADRACOLOR EXPRESS, DOUGLAS STEINMILLER

LAYOUT AND EDITED BY: KEN ANDERSON PRINTED BY: QUADRACOLOR EXPRESS
PROGRAM PHOTOGRAPHY BY: JAMES LATHROP

From The COMMISSIONER

"The Rhinos would have been one of the top draws in Major League Soccer in 1997, had they played in the MLS."

When we embarked on this great expedition back in 1986, we never could have dreamed that our league would become one of the largest sports organizations in the United States. Those were humble days when our primary struggle was to keep teams afloat from day to day.

While we are still not without the challenges of teams whose goals are a bit beyond their reach, the USISL of 1998 is at the point where it can point to some very real accomplishments which in no small way project us solidly into the future of the sport in the United States.

Our closer relationship with U.S. Soccer, made possible by the granting of Division II and Division III status to our leagues, has made it possible for there to be one integrated soccer system in the United States. The USISL system has become the much needed foundation, without which the old North American Soccer League was not able to continue.

Our official relationship with Major League Soccer has established the A-League, the Division III Pro League and the Premier Development League as the rungs of the ladder which young players must climb on their way to the top professional status. The steady influx of A-League and USISL stars into Major League Soccer show clearly that the proving ground for today's upcoming American player is with A-League and USISL teams in cities and towns across our land.

And this year, an official MLS rookie team -- the Pro 40 Select -- will participate fully in our 1998 A-League schedule, playing all of our teams in a series of road games. We are delighted that our Division II league can be of assistance in helping Major League Soccer get more playing time for its younger players who aspire to make it to the top.

The continued growth of the women's game has kept pace with the growth of our own W-League, started three years ago with an eye to the future. This year, more members of the U. S. National Women's Team player's pool will wear the colors of teams in the W-League, which features the very best of women's soccer - professional players, former collegians and collegians in its unique, open league concept.

The outstanding performance of USISL, Inc. teams, both on and off the field, have turned many an eye toward the grass roots properties of our sport. For example, sportswriters, marketers and observers of our sport can see that it isn't just what's going on at the top that is important. There must be an infrastructure to keep everything on an even keel. That infrastructure is now known as the USISL system of leagues.

Take the A-League Rochester Raging Rhinos, for example. Here is a team that sells out Frontier Field night in and night out. It is the biggest show in town, despite the fact that it plays in the same stadium as Triple-A baseball. The Rhinos would have been one of the top draws in Major League Soccer in 1997, had they played in MLS.

There are other success stories where A-League and USISL teams are going head-to-head with baseball, and winning the battle. Soccer is becoming a mainstream sport for families, whose children continue to take to the soccer field in ever-increasing numbers. Soccer, indeed, has become the new national pastime of America's youth.

While USISL, Inc. provides the most playing opportunities in the USA for adults who aspire to make it to the highest level, we will continue to do our part to advance the cause for America's younger players. The USISL's Y-League, which will begin as a pilot project for players U-15 through U-20, will become a reality in 1999. It will fully link the USISL system together, putting the best young players in America on a platform where they can be identified as professional /national team prospects.

As we move forward in this year of the 1998 World Cup, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our team owners, general managers, coaches and staff of the more than 140 USISL, Inc. teams around the nation. You are truly what soccer is about in the United States.

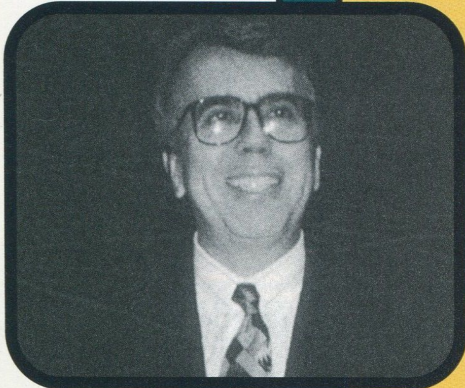
To the more than one million fans who watched games in our leagues last season, we look forward to seeing you return in increasing numbers as you support the A-League / USISL team in your town.

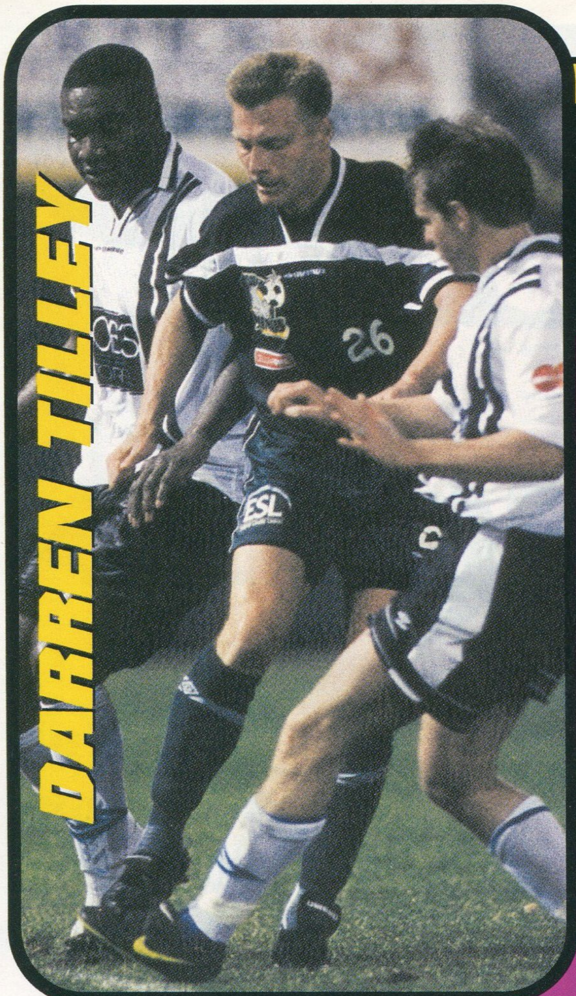
And to the U.S. sports media who will be following the more than 1,500 games we play this summer, we hope that you will, in the course of covering our games, find a wealth of stories that help tell the USISL story to the American public.

Best of luck to everyone for an outstanding season in 1998.

Sincerely,

USISL, Inc. **Francisco Marcos** Commissioner and President





DARREN TILLEY

GLOBETR

By: Christopher Lawlor

Spin the globe and choose a country. It would be difficult to envision a place on this planet where soccer has not touched the lives of the masses. For them life without soccer would be empty.

To wit, the recently completed World Cup where the flag-waving people filled the French stadiums and made it a special time. Soccer is the sport of choice for billions. It is simply a religious experience with its fervor passed down through the generations.

In Italy, Germany, Argentina, Brazil, Spain, or England, soccer is the lifeblood of an entire nation. Stadiums are packed to the brim. Players are chased by the paparazzi. Their lives are magnfied under a national microscope and trivial bits of information become tabloid fodder.

Though Americans traditionally gravitate to football, basketball, or baseball, they realize that soccer is gaining momentum in certain pockets of the nation. Fueling soccer's ever growing presence is a true professional league like Major League Soccer and a strong grassroots program for its youth.

As the World Cup ground to a halt last month, a worldwide television audience of nearly two billion viewers, witnessed France turn back the stylish Brazilians, 3-0. While a global soccer community reflected on France '98, a select group of Rhinos were glued to their televisions, soaking up all the charisma and pageantry associated with the coronation of a champion.

Unlike their teammates, this small segment of the Rhinos' roster grew up in environs that were dictated by the boot of a ball, red cards, and multi-million dollar transfer fees. They came to the United States as many before them did and are a part of the world's largest melting pot. Five of the six players find themselves far from their homelands. Canadian-born goalkeeper Pat Onstad of Vancouver, British Columbia might work close to the border, but still is 3,000 miles from home.

Customs differ and language barrier poses a problem. But to a man, they agree: life as a professional soccer player is a dutiful occupation. Mauro DaSilva (Brazil), Craig Demmin (Trinidad), Ezikiel Alamo (Ghana), Fuseini Dauda (Ghana), Darren Tilley (England), and Lenin Steenkamp (South Africa) are the Rhinos' version of the United Nations.

"For some players the United States is a real culture shock," said Rhinos head coach Pat Ercoli, who is a Canadian citizen and speaks five languages. Ercoli grew up in Toronto and spoke Italian at home, but learned Spanish and Portuguese as a player with the Lancers.

On the island of Trinidad, Demmin, like many of his foreign-born teammates, was exposed to soccer as a boy. Sans the luxury of playing on lush pitches surrounded by trees or shrubs, Demmin and his mates took to the streets - literally.

"Playing on asphalt was no big deal," he said. "You just couldn't find fields and when you did, they were full of holes, broken glass, and other debris. On the streets, you had a few pebbles. It was a relatively flat surface and everybody took turns shouting when cars would approach. We'd let the cars drive by and then resume action. Once in awhile the police would tell us to stop, but once they left, it was back to playing soccer."

He has come a long way from playing barefoot in the streets of Arima, where stubbing toes and tearing away toenails on a steaming pavement were commonplace. When Demmin heads back to the Caribbean, he is greeted by warm breezes, swaying tropical foliage, and a turquoise colored sea that envelops the island. He welcomes joining the local street pick-up games because he knows it's a link to his past.

"The kids know who I am, they let me play," he smiled. "When I'm home I don't think about money, I just want to have fun!"



CRAIG DEMMIN

Dauda and Alamo, a pair of fleet Ghanaians, were reared in the West African nation, but took different paths to Rochester.

"I did not start playing soccer until I was 18 years old," Alamo said. "It was at the urging of a teacher that I try soccer. He thought I'd make a good player."

Alamo enjoyed table tennis, swimming and volleyball as a teenager. When he took up soccer, coaches quickly took notice. Alamo was a natural and moved up the national depth charts at a rapid pace. His crowning achievement came as he was named to the 1992 Ghanaian Olympic Team that participated in Barcelona, Spain. Alamo said the Olympic experience was one of the "greatest feelings in the world."

OTTERS

"I never saw so many people in one place at once," Alamo remarked of the Opening Ceremonies. "Walking into the stadium was a proud moment. The crowd was very loud. I was very nervous at first, but stayed calm and knew this was a once in a lifetime experience."

On the other hand, Dauda's family immigrated to Canada when he was 17-years-old. His earliest influences were German and Brazilian players. "Watching world class players like Dunga (of Brazil) have helped my game. As a boy, I watched games and tried to imitate the Brazilian's skills. They are known to be fancy with the ball and gave me something to practice," Dauda said.

It didn't take Dauda long before he made an impression when he arrived in Hamilton, Ont. Instead of defending, Dauda was pushed to the front line in an effort to unleash his speed and tremendous ball skills. "I found the Canadians were at a much lower level of play than I had become accustomed to," Dauda said. "When I came to Rochester, we played on artificial turf (at Fauver Stadium) and I was switched back to defense." Dauda has received some correspondence from Canadian officials about the 2002 World Cup. He hopes to play in upcoming qualifying matches and contribute to a magical run that may vault the Canadians into the quadrennial competition for the first time since 1986.

Growing up in soccer-rabid England, Tilley came from a soccer family. His father, Terry, was an exceptional amateur club player that had an opportunity to turn pro, but opted for a more stable income as a truck driver. "My dad comes to watch me whe ever he can. He's always been supportive and instilled great values in me."

Tilley, who spent last season playing with Toronto and Montreal, came to Rochester in the off-season via free agency. It's no coincidence that the Rhinos' goal scoring has improved. He was named the A-League's Player of the Week (July 6-12) as he scored four goals and notched two assists in wins over Staten Island and Atlanta.

Prior to the A-League, Tilley was a lethal scorer for York City, an English Third Division club, where he slotted 24 goals in 20 matches. He also played in China and Hong Kong. "Playing in the Far East was a wonderful experience," he said. "To see how other races interact and to witness the cultural differences is something I won't forget.

"On the field, the Asians were very technical and physically fit. They use a lot of two touch and build up the play. You saw the same style in the play of Japan and Saudi Arabia this year in the cup."

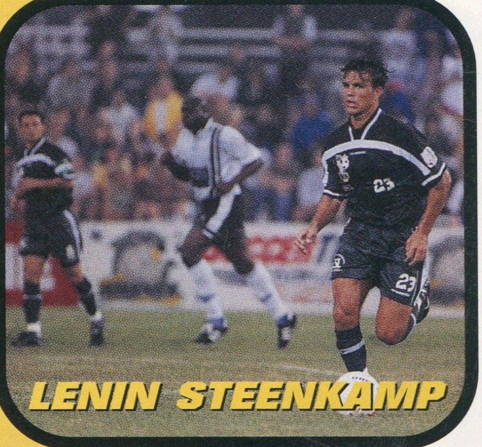
When foreigners come to North America to play, the anticipation is keen. But what happens when an American goes abroad? Having played in Germany for two seasons, midfielder Mike Kirmse, who grew up on Long Island and attended Clarkson University, knows the feeling of being an outsider. While playing for FSV Salmrohr, a Third Division club, Kirmse was thrown into an unique situation. Coupled with the rigors of learning a new style of play, the normally gregarious Kirmse now felt stifled by communication deficiencies.

"I was told to only speak German, no English," he said. "The other players knew it would only help me become a more productive player and fit in better if I learned the language. Slowly, the language barrier came down and I adapted to the German lifestyle. It wasn't easy learning German, but I'm thankful to those who encouraged me and I still have many friends over there."

A Rhino that can identify with Kirmse, albeit conversely, is Brazilian defender Mauro DaSilva. Known to Rhinos fans for his permanent smile off the field and dazzling skills on, the 29-year-old has quickly become a popular fan favorite without the luxury of the English language. But the latter is soon to change - DaSilva has attacked English vocabulary with the same ferocity that he is known for on the soccer pitch.

While most of his teammates have at most their name or number adorning their lockers at Roberts Wesleyan College, DaSilva's is cloaked in a virtual carte de jour of palatable syntax, in English and translated into his native language of Portuguese. An English-Portuguese dictionary never leaves his side. And the Spanish language has become a critical tool - as a common communicative ground - for DaSilva and his teammates, particularly the fluent likes of Yari Allnutt and Josh Freeman.

"It is difficult but I am learning more English every day with the help of my teammates," said DaSilva through an interpreter. "Coach Ercoli has been very helpful with friendly advice and patience," he added.



LENIN STEENKAMP

"I grew with people of all races," Steenkamp admitted. "People don't realize that South Africans love soccer and it truly is the national sport. Apartheid really hurt South Africa for years and we were banned from international competitions for years, but I had friends of all races."

Steenkamp, who calls Durban, South Africa his home, has brought midfield stability to the club for all three seasons. Originally, he came to U.S. to attend Lynn University and led the Boca Raton, Fla. school to an NAIA national title in 1991. Last off-season, he went back home to play for the Manning Rangers, the defending First Division champs.

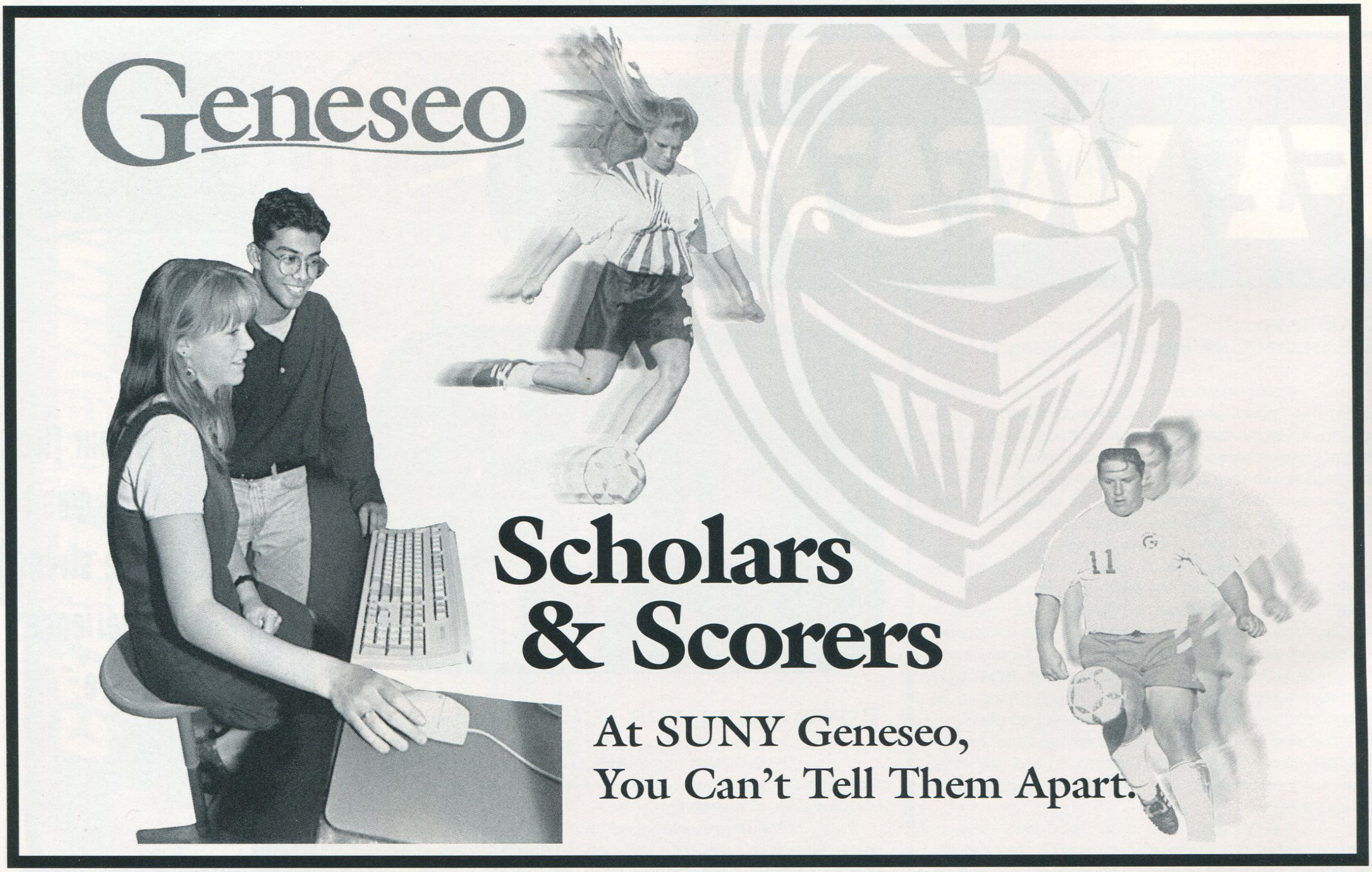
Much to the surprise of foreign players, Rochester is a "true soccer city." Each one sees a commitment to the game and have been accepted like long-lost relatives. It is a city abuzz with excitement of the possibility of moving up to the top-division — MLS — when the next round of expansion is unveiled in 2001 or 2002. Major media markets like Houston, Seattle, Portland, and Philadelphia appear on the league hierarchy's wish list, but Tilley thinks Rochester brings a solid knowledgeable fan base and first-class front office to the table.

"Why not?" he said of the possible promotion. "The fans here are great. They love soccer and show up in numbers. The owners are committed to winning and with a new stadium, a go at MLS could very well happen."



EZIKIEL ALAMO

Christopher Lawlor is a New Jersey based journalist who covers Major League Soccer and the MetroStars. Lawlor, a former Rochester resident, is a graduate of McQuaid Jesuit High School and earned a degree in journalism at St. Bonaventure University.



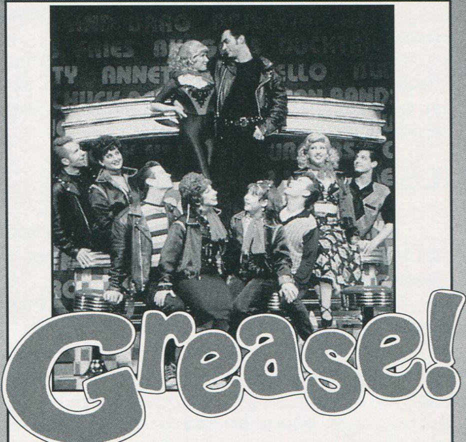
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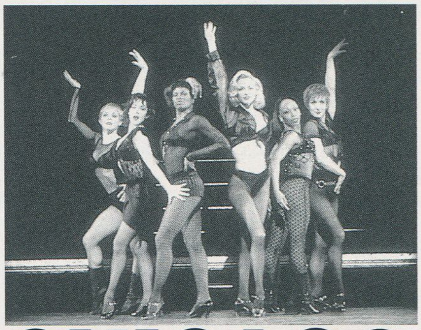
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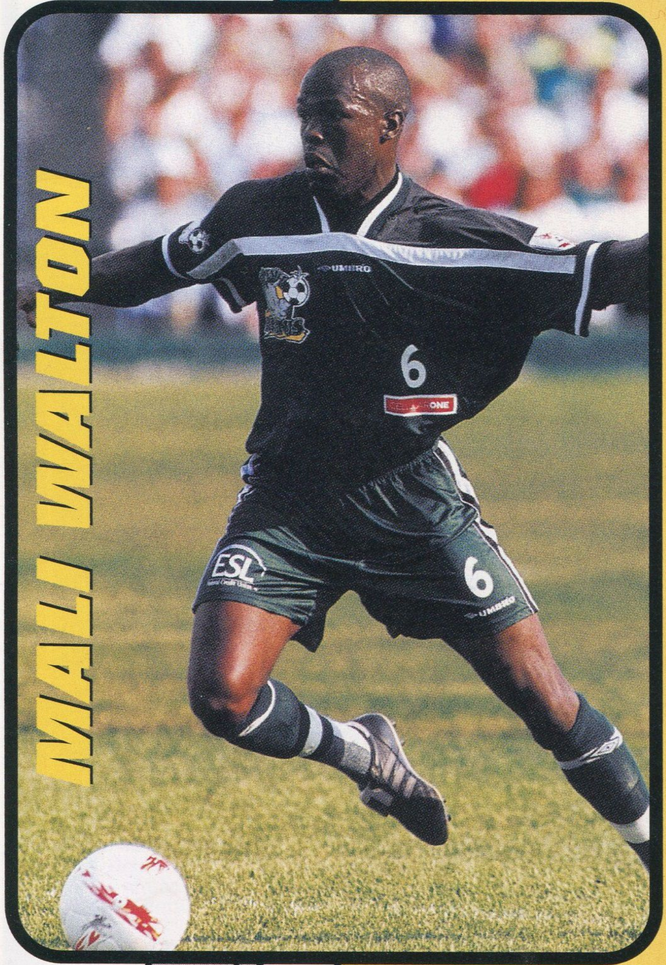
MALI WALTON

By: Warren Kozireski

With him in uniform for part of last year and most of this year , the Raging Rhinos were an impressive 19-3 as of mid-July. This season, he has been a big part of the fearsome defensive foursome which has held A-League opponents to a microscopic goals total, and he has also shown his range by patrolling the midfield.

Coach Pat Ercoli and the rest of the Rhinos have a 6'1", 180lb good luck charm to carry around with them, they hope all the way to the A-League championship. And growing up in Flint, Michigan has made him a good luck charm to the youth soccer players of Michigan as well.

Mali Walton helps teach a training system called "waza" that was developed by Dominic Sicluna, who plays indoor soccer with the Detroit Rockers. It's a martial-arts term for technique. After playing professional soccer for almost three straight years, Walton went back home last year to help his former college teammate coach youth soccer. "Dominic really enjoys coaching kids and he came up with this term that the kids really love. With soccer, it is showing them how to use their feet for different ways of passing or dribbling the ball. We call those things 'sweet spots' - the shoelaces, inside and outside of the foot, the ball of your foot and your heal. It's really good for kids that are just learning to play, up to 15-years-olds. He has about 30 club teams in that area along with T-shirts, rub-on tattoos and a web site, www.soccerwaza.com."



As with many sports, kids (and sometimes the parents) just want to play games without the practice time. Walton feels that waza makes practices more fun, almost a game within a game. But waza is much more than just soccer. "Dominic gets into some positive mental imaging - via meditation- along with other life skills, like being a good person, the importance of an education and things like that. He's trying to get the kids who want to play soccer ready for things in the future. Instead of just a soccer practice, we're developing the person. That's why he chose the martial arts term, to prepare you for more than just the immediate physical activity. The parents love it because it results in a well-rounded individual."

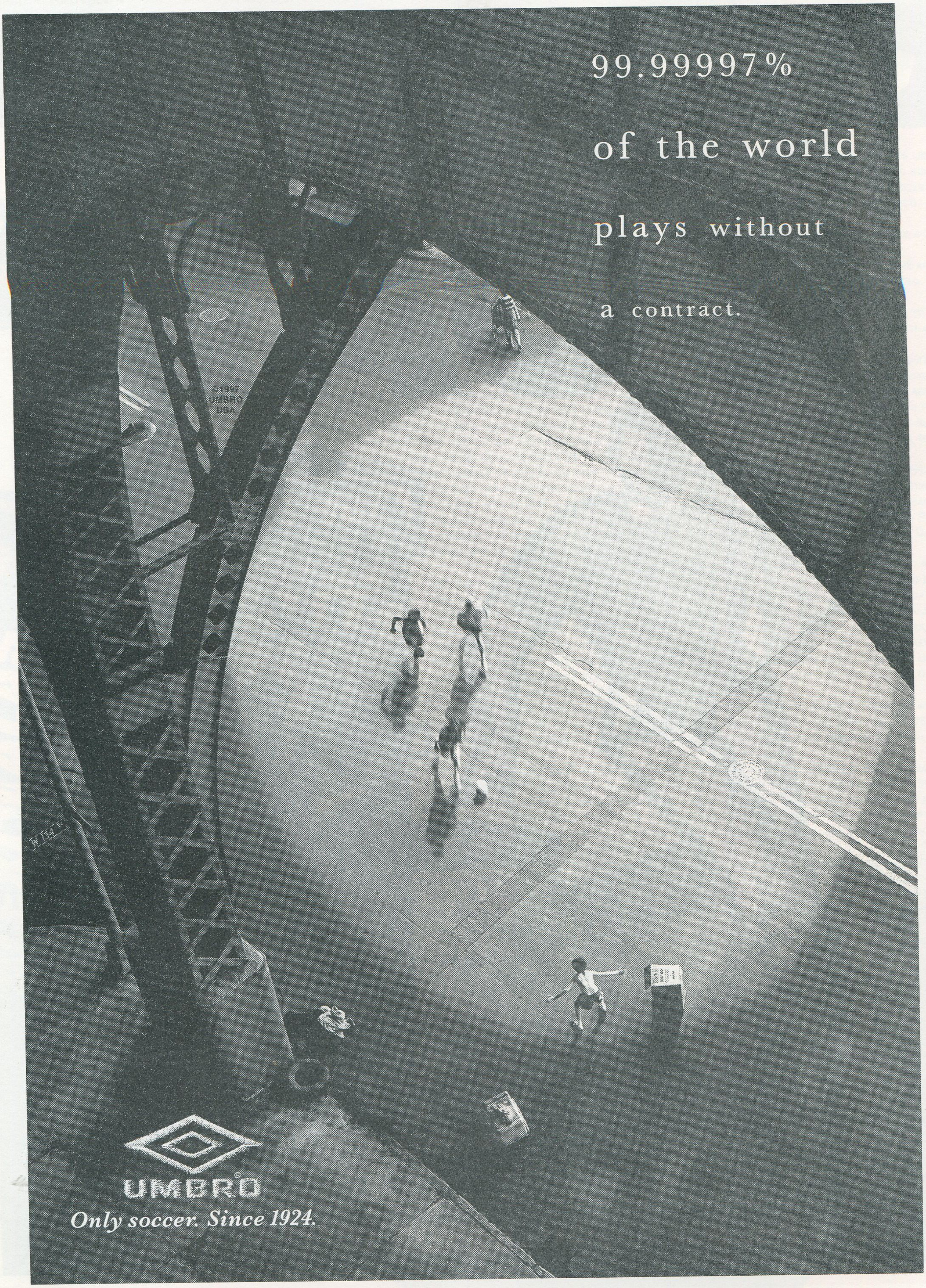
Walton believes that the future success of competitive soccer in the United States hinges on the professional players of today giving back to the game following their playing days by coaching the future stars. "Kids need an experienced person who has played the game in order to develop their skills to a higher level. You need a model to look up to. I was lucky enough to have that growing up."

After being a three-year starter at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan and leading them to the NCAA Division II national championship game, Walton spent his rookie professional season (1996-97) as captain of the Tampa Bay Terror of the NPSL. He then led Mid-Michigan of the PDSL to the semi-finals last July. The Rhinos front office saw him in action against Rochester in last season's U.S. Open Cup tournament and signed him last August.

Whether coaching or playing, Walton is not used to losing and, he says, neither are his teammates. "This year is a completely different story from last year. Every one is a competitor on this team. I don't think anyone likes any part of losing, even if it's only a card game. From listening on the bus, we have some euchre players on this team that don't like to lose. We all have a high maturity level and know that in order to win a championship you need more than just eight or nine guys. The players know that even if you're coming off the bench, you won't find the atmosphere we have playing in Rochester anywhere else. We want to prove a point to this league how good we are and, by August, I think we're going to be even more committed. This team is going to continue to jell and be very hard to beat."

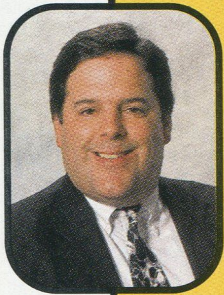
No four-leaf clover or rabbit's foot needed. Just waza for the youth soccer players of Michigan and solid defense for the Rhinos. Waza for life skills, defense for championships.

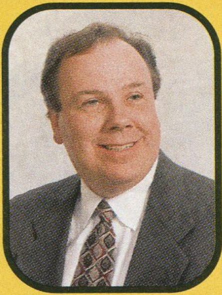

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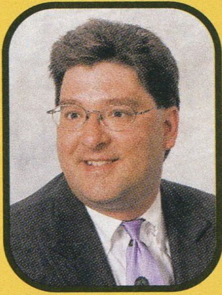

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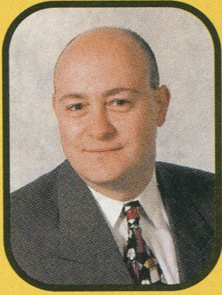
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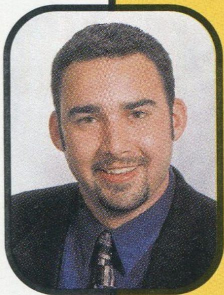

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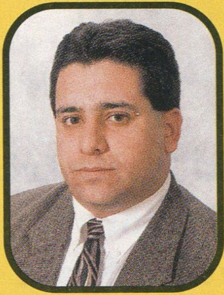

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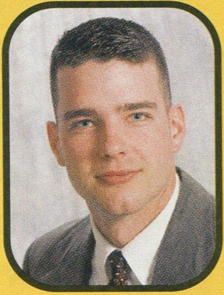

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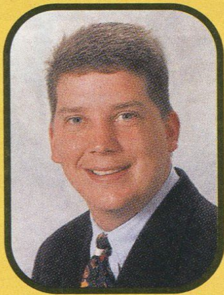

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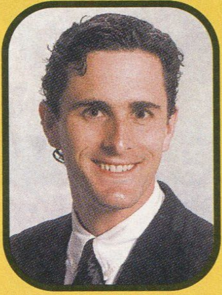

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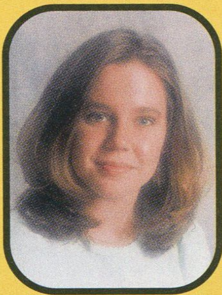

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YOUTH PROG. DIR.

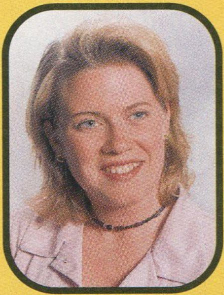

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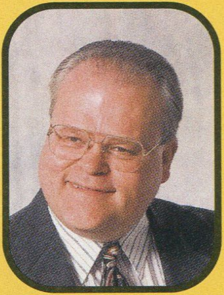

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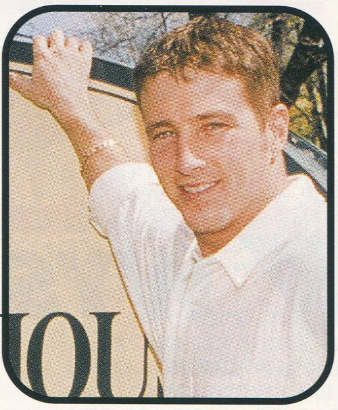

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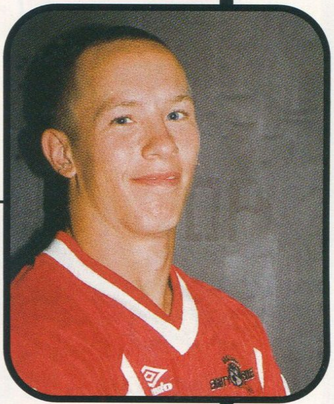
AWARDS

MILWAUKEE RAMPAGE
A-League Champions

CAROLINA DYNAMO
Runner-Up

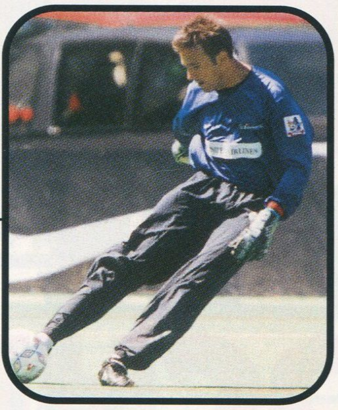


DOUG MILLER, ROCHESTER
Top Goal Scorer



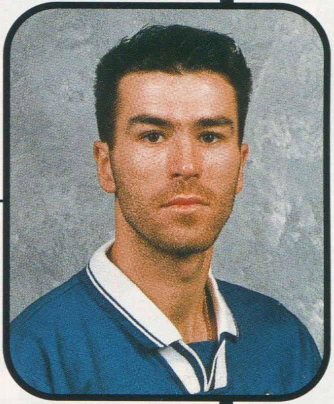
GARRET KUSCH, VANCOUVER
Assists Leader

DOUG MILLER, ROCHESTER
Top Point-Getter



DUSTY HUDOCK, SEATTLE
Goalkeeper of the Year

STERN JOHN, NEW ORLEANS
Rookie of the Year



JOHN LIMNIATIS, MONTREAL
Defender of the Year

BOB LILLEY, HERSHEY
Coach of the Year

DOUG MILLER, ROCHESTER
Most Valuable Player

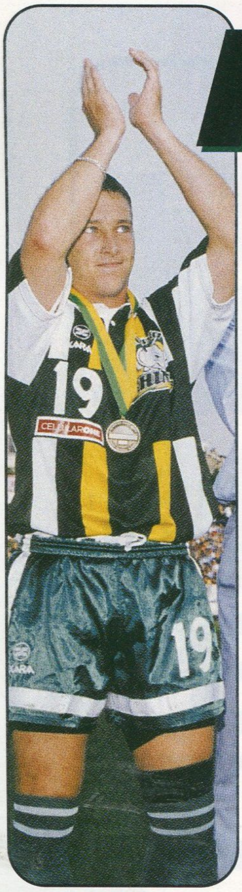
1997 A-League Awards

A-LEAGUE ALL-STAR TEAM

First Team	Position	Second Team
Dusty Hudock, Seattle	Goalkeeper	Paolo Ceccarelli, Montreal
John Limniatis, Montreal	Defender	Dian Anguelov, Richmond
Travis Rinker, Long Island	Defender	Don Gramenz, Minnesota
Scott Schweitzer, Carolina	Defender	Robert Rosario, Carolina
Mark Watson, Seattle	Defender	Bill Sedgewick, Montreal
Yari Allnutt, Carolina	Midfielder	Nick DeSantis, Montreal
Mauro Biello, Montreal	Midfielder	Domenic Mobilio, Vancouver
Garret Kusch, Vancouver	Midfielder	John Smith, Nashville
Mark Baena, California	Forward	Mike Gailey, Seattle
Stern John, New Orleans	Forward	Steve Patterson, Colorado
Doug Miller, Rochester	Forward	Darren Tilley, Montreal


YOU DA MAN!!!!!
LUCKY AUTOGRAPH:
OH MY GOSH! THE RHINOS HAVE A BREAK AWAY!!! ITS TWO ON ONE!!!!! HERE IT IS......... HE SHOOTS!!!!!!!!! ITS.... ITS....
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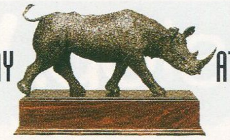
RHINOS MVP

If you think "Raging Rhinos" is a unique nickname for a professional soccer team, check out the trophy for the club's most valuable player. "The Rhino", a commissioned sculpture by artist Mary C. Taylor, is a distinctive piece of steel crafted to look like a charging rhinoceros. No doubt, it is one of the most beautiful and unusual trophies in all of sports.

Chris McVicker, President of the Flanders Group, is one of the Rhinos' biggest supporters. McVicker wanted to contribute to the Rhinos' success both on and off the field - but in a different way. In chatting with Rhinos CEO Steve Donner, McVicker had the idea of commissioning a piece of art to honor the team's best player. A close friend of Ms. Taylor, McVicker gave her the challenge of sculpting a rhino. No easy task, but Mary's specialty is sculpting nature and animals, so she went to work. The end result is an exquisite rendition of a charging rhino, full of power and grace.

"The Rhino", displayed at all home games and in the team's offices at Frontier Field, weighs approximately 50 pounds and was crafted by hand. A solid wooden base holds the names of each season's most valuable player, as selected by his teammates. Rene Rivas, the team's 1996 A-League First Team All-Star defender, was the first to have his name inscribed on the trophy. This past season, Rhinos MVP Doug Miller was honored with a pre-game presentation of the trophy at Frontier Field. Both Rivas and Miller received a smaller rendition of the sculpture to keep.

The trophy was originally unveiled on April 5, 1997 at the Golden Lynx Gallery in Mendon. McVicker, Taylor, Rivas and friends were all there to marvel at the sculpture, which has quickly become a unique and important tradition in the history of the Rochester Raging Rhinos.

RHINOS FANS CAN SEE THE TROPHY ON DISPLAY  AT FRONTIER FIELD DURING ALL RHINOS HOME GAMES

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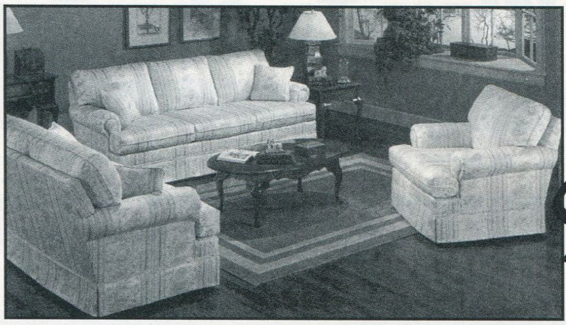
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Rochester Raging RHINOS

Our Staff Wishes You A Successful Season.

A-League: Movin' On Up

The United Systems of Independent Soccer Leagues and the American Professional Soccer League merged Oct. 8, 1996 to form a unified Division II outdoor professional soccer league recognized by the United States Soccer Federation.

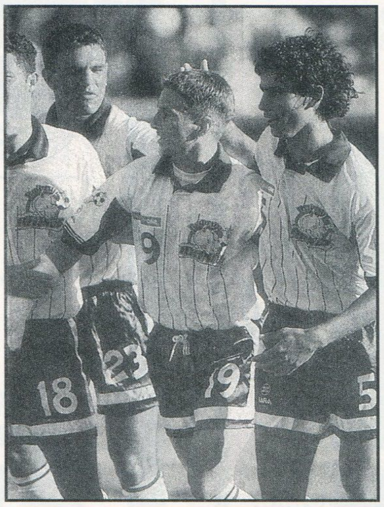
Thus, the A-League has become the top level of play in the USISL system, just one step below Major League Soccer.

The A-League, which consisted of 24 teams in 1997, will field 28 teams for the 1998 season, including an experimental team consisting of entirely MLS Project-40 players.

The league is broken geographically into four divisions (Pacific, Central, Northeast, and Atlantic) in two conferences (Western and Eastern). Each division consists of seven teams.

The A-League and USISL compete in the U.S. Open Cup, the country's oldest soccer tournament. The first six games on the 1998 A-League schedule will be qualification matches for the Open Cup. Eight A-League teams compete in the second round for an opportunity to advance to the third round, which includes MLS teams.

Expect to see considerable movement of players between the A-League and MLS this upcoming season as the leagues have an agreement which enables USISL players to be called up to MLS teams, and MLS players to be loaned to USISL teams.



Rochester's Doug Miller (#19) was a natural choice for 1997 A-League MVP

In 1996, 31 USISL players were called up by MLS teams, and 23 MLS players were loaned to USISL teams. In 1997, the trend continued as 26 USISL players were called up to MLS teams and 50 MLS players were loaned to USISL teams.

The flood of A-League and USISL players to MLS began in 1996 when 84 USISL players were selected in the MLS inaugural supplemental draft, with 18 more USISL players selected in 1997.

Many current MLS players began their careers in the A-League before joining the MLS. A few of these players include: Marcelo Balboa, John Doyle, Brian McBride, Tab Ramos, Jason Kreis, Tony Meola and Eric Wynalda.

The A-League has evolved into a major component in the growth of soccer in the United States. It is currently the second highest level of soccer in the U.S. and is at the highest level in Canada.

The 1997 A-League season was a success both on and off the field as the Milwaukee Rampage put together an unbelievable championship run and claimed the 1997 A-League Championship. The Rampage defeated the Carolina Dynamo 2-1 in a shootout at Uihlein Soccer Park in front of an all-time franchise and stadium record crowd of 6,381.

Success in the stands was another trademark of the A-League last season, as more than one million (1,085,777) fans made their way through the A-League turnstiles (an average of 2,828 per game) for the third straight year.

The 1998 season will also see a few new teams competing. The Hampton Roads Mariners return after being on hiatus for a year, the New Orleans Riverboat Gamblers will now be called the New Orleans Storm, and the Colorado Foxes have moved to San Diego and will be called the San Diego Flash.

Also joining the league are former D3 Professional League teams: San Francisco Bay Seals, who were giant killers in the 1997 U.S. Open Cup, and the Albuquerque Geckos, who won the 1997 D3 Pro League championship.

Making their way to the A-League from the Premier Development League are the Cincinnati Riverhawks. Other teams joining the league this season are the Staten Island Vipers and the MLS Project-40 team called U.S. Pro 40 Select.

It will be an exciting season for the A-League as 28 teams will compete for both the championship and the 1998 U.S. Open Cup.

D3: On Their Way To the Top

The D3 Pro League, known as the "USISL Pro League" until 1997, is a step up from amateur-level soccer and the first level of pro soccer for many of its players. Many future stars of the Division II A-League and Division I MLS get their start in the D3 Pro League.

As part of the interleague agreement between MLS and the USISL, D3 Pro League teams are official affiliates of MLS clubs.

The D3 Pro League includes 39 teams in 1998 and is the largest of the USISL's three outdoor men's leagues. Teams will play 18 league games and four U.S. Open Cup games this year. The season begins in April and concludes with the championship in early September.

An added element of excitement surrounding the D3 Pro League in 1998 is the concept of promotion, long a standard in professional leagues around the world. Beginning last season with the promotion of the Albuquerque Geckos, the D3 Pro League champion is automatically promoted to the A-League for the next season, providing it meets Division II criteria.

The D3 Pro League remains the only Division III league in the U.S. With 28 teams in the Division II A-League in 1998, the number of professional teams under the USISL umbrella is the most ever.

The USISL first went outdoors in 1989, but it did not add a professional division until 1995. There were 36 Division III Pro League teams in 1995, but the USISL split its Division III level into two leagues for 1996, creating the Select League (21 teams) and Pro League (27 teams). Although both were sanctioned by the U.S. Soccer Federation as Division III leagues, the Select League was considered a higher tier.

As the middle level of the men's developmental structure between the Division II A-League and the top-level amateur league, the Premier Development Soccer League - the D3 Pro League plays an integral role, and can be compared to the Class AA level of professional baseball.

A-League or Major League Soccer teams may discover a D3 Pro League player who is ready to move up; or the A-League or MLS clubs may elect to send a player to a D3 Pro League team for seasoning, injury rehabilitation or to get valuable game experience that they might not otherwise get at the Division I or II levels.

Two D3 Pro League teams, the Albuquerque Geckos and the San Francisco Bay Seals, will jump to the A-League this season after having tremendously successful 1997 seasons.

The Seals went on a run that will go down as one of the most amazing in U.S. Open Cup history by knocking off two MLS clubs on their way to the tournament's semi-final game.

The Geckos will join the Seals in the A-League after winning the 1997 D3 Pro League championship with a 4-1 trouncing of the Charlotte (N.C.) Eagles on their home turf at the University of New Mexico Soccer Stadium.

This season marks the advancement of two teams from the PDSL (the Southwest Florida Manatees and Miami Breakers) along with the addition of several expansion teams (the Shreveport-Bossier Lions, Pensacola Barracudas, Tallahassee Tempest, Eastern Shore (Md.) Sharks, Northern Virginia Royals and Western Mass. Pioneers), so 1998 should be an interesting year.

'97 STATISTICS

1997 Rochester Raging Rhinos Statistics

NO.	NAME	POS	GP	GS	MIN	G	A	PTS	SHOTS	FOULS	CARDS C	CARDS E	SHOOTOUT G	SHOOTOUT ATT
19	MILLER, Doug	F	25	22	1,996	23	5	51	78	25	3	1	0	2
18	GLENN, Jimmy	F	28	28	2,287	13	8	34	58	24	1	0	1	5
23	STEENKAMP, Lenin	M	21	17	1,400	4	4	12	37	13	2	1	0	0
11	VIGNJEVIC, Nikola	M	21	11	1,194	3	3	9	35	12	1	0	1	3
8	TANNER, Tommy	M	20	18	1,433	2	5	9	11	30	5	1	0	2
20	DALIGCON, Nate	M	4	1	182	3	1	7	6	2	0	0	0	0
7	GUTIERREZ, Henry	M	17	16	1,384	1	5	7	40	31	5	0	1	1
9	MONTEIRO, Darci	M	11	5	604	2	2	6	16	21	6	1	0	0
15	ALAMO, Ezikeil	M	21	6	910	1	3	5	7	27	3	0	0	2
6	RIVAS, Rene	M/D	7	7	630	2	0	4	10	17	2	0	0	0
5	VILLAGRA, Gustavo	M	20	20	1,807	0	3	3	16	54	7	0	0	1
12	KIRMSE, Mike	M	12	6	686	1	0	2	19	11	1	0	0	1
16	KENNEL, Chris	D	17	10	1,076	1	0	2	4	13	0	0	0	2
3	HOUSER, Nate	D	21	16	1,400	0	2	2	7	32	5	0	3	4
17	DAUDA, Fuseini	D	18	16	1,540	0	2	2	5	54	7	2	0	1
10	McKAY, Yogi	M	20	18	1,613	0	1	1	14	28	3	0	0	2
27	KOETTERS, Kevin	D	22	20	1,782	0	1	1	10	18	0	0	0	3
6	WALTON, Mali	D	6	6	670	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1
4	MINOTT, Leon	D	18	15	1,410	0	0	0	4	27	4	0	0	0
14	SMOTRICH, Yuriy	D	16	16	1,408	0	0	0	1	20	1	1	0	1
12	MERCIK, Joe	D	3	2	255	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
13	VUCKOVIC, Bojan	F	4	2	199	0	0	0	8	4	1	0	0	1
22	STUART, Darrell	F	3	1	71	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
26	MAROJEVIC, Novica	M	2	1	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	MILLER, Scott	M	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	STODDARD, Justin	D	5	1	197	0	0	0	1	7	2	0	0	0
1	ANDRACKI, Billy	GK	28	28	2,559	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
0	THOMPSON, Rett	GK	2	0	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTALS		27	27	2,528	56	46	158	388	476	65	7	6	30

NO.	GOALKEEPER	GP	GS	MINS	GA	SVS	GAA	SO	RECORD W	RECORD L	SHOOTOUT SHOTS FACED	SHOOTOUT SAVES	SHOOTOUT GA	SHOOTOUT RECORD W	SHOOTOUT RECORD L
1	ANDRACKI, Billy	28	28	2,559	44	151	1.55	6	14	14	33	8	12	0	5
0	THOMPSON, Rett	2	0	59	3	4	4.58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TEAM TOTALS	28	28	2,618	47	155	1.62	6	14	14	33	8	12	0	5

NOTE: Andracki & Thompson shared Shutout on 8/29/97 (4-0 vs Long Island)

RECORD	GP	W	L	SOW	SOL
RHINOS	28	14	14	0	5
OPPONENTS	28	14	14	5	0

SCORING	1ST	2ND	OT	SO	TOT
RHINOS	26	28	2	0	56
OPPONENTS	16	31	0	5	52

SHOTS	TOTAL
RHINOS	389
OPPONENTS	393

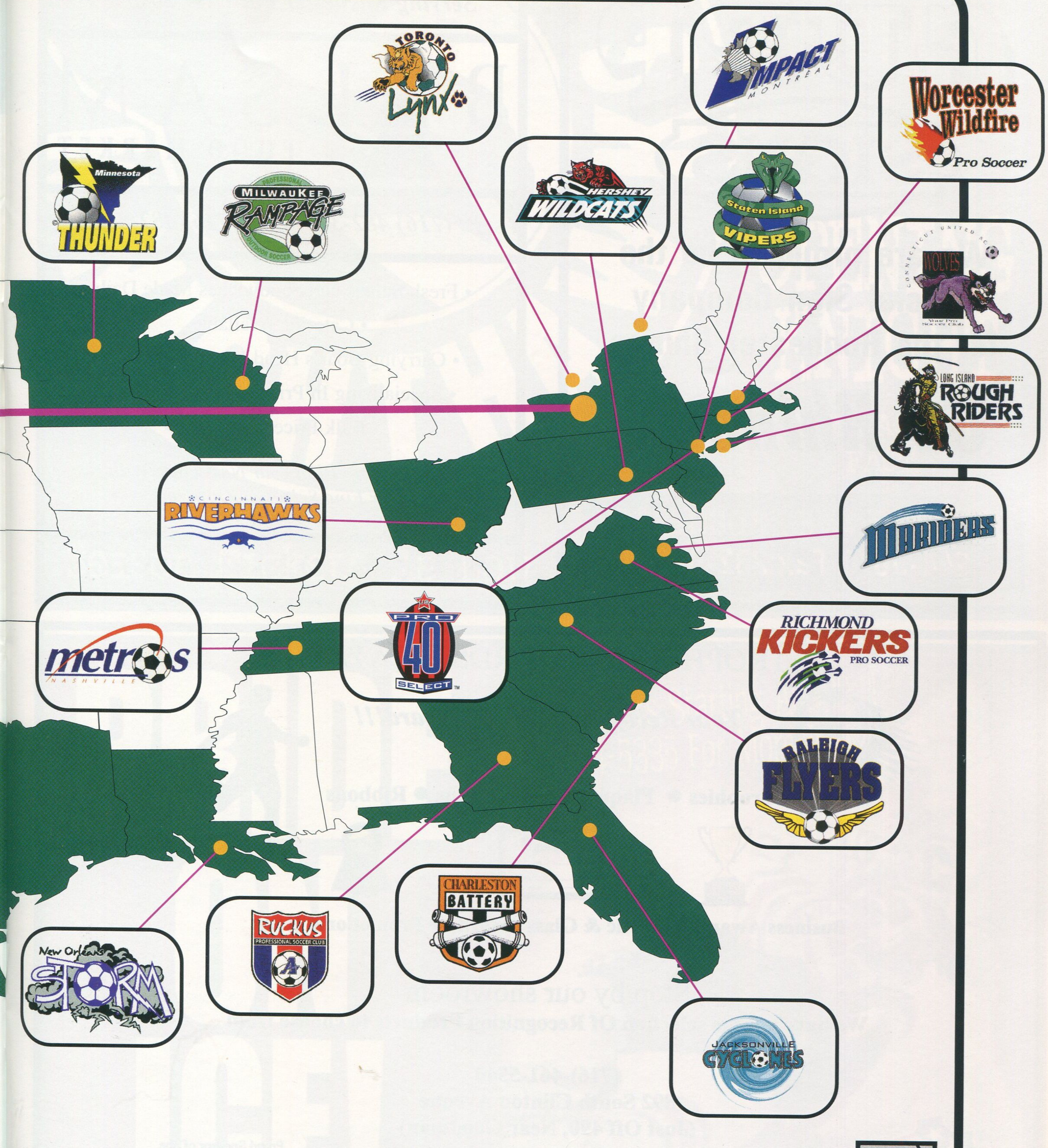
RHINOS WHEN:	W-L
Scoring First Goal	13-8
Allowing First Goal	1-6
Outshooting opponent	8-5
Shots are Tied	2-1
Outshot by opponent	4-8
Leading at Half-Time	10-5
Tied at Half-Time	3-5
Trailing at Half-Time	1-4

( ) = Shootout Win

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS

RHINOS		OPPONENTS
146	CORNER KICKS	135
113	OFFSIDES	65
4	PENALTY KICKS	3
3	PENALTY KICKS SCORED	2
467	FOULS	426
65	CAUTIONS	43
10	EJECTIONS	9


Vancouver Eighty Sixers
Seattle Sounders Professional Soccer
Seals San Francisco Bay
California Jaguars Salinas, CA Professional Soccer
Zodiac Orange County
San Diego Flash Pro Soccer
Albuquerque Geckos Professional Soccer
El Paso Patriots
Rochester Raging Rhinos
SoccerTown USA
ROCHESTER, NY


Minnesota
THUNDER
Milwaukee
Rampage
Toronto
Lynx
Hershey
Wildcats
Impact
Montreal
Staten Island
Vipers
Worcester
Wildfire
Pro Soccer
Wolves
Long Island
Rough
Riders
Mariners
Cincinnati
Riverhawks
metros
Nashville
Pro
40
Select
Richmond
Kickers
Pro Soccer
Raleigh
Flyers
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Charleston
Battery
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Americans

KICKIN' AROUND THE DIAL

By: Gene Battaglia

Need proof that Rochester is a soccer-crazed city? Turn on your radio.

Currently, there are four soccer-only shows in the Rochester market, as compared to one hockey show, and one baseball show.

Need your soccer fix in between Rhinos games? We present you with a look at what's popping up on the dial.

"Kick This!" Hot Talk 1280 WHTK-AM
Saturdays 10 AM - noon.

Hosts: Democrat and Chronicle sportswriter Jeff DiVeronica, Don "Seamus" Lalka, former Rochester Raven Stacey Donald, Chris "Chili Pepper" Kennel, Mark Spacone, and the show's founder, Soccer Sam - a.k.a. Salvatore Fantauzzo.

Here's a show that has something for everyone. That's by design, says Soccer Sam.

"When we started the TV show three or four years ago, what I felt that soccer was lacking, or even sports was lacking, was a fun angle to it. I thought by keeping it fun, and making it wacky, we would attract the not-so diehard soccer fan."

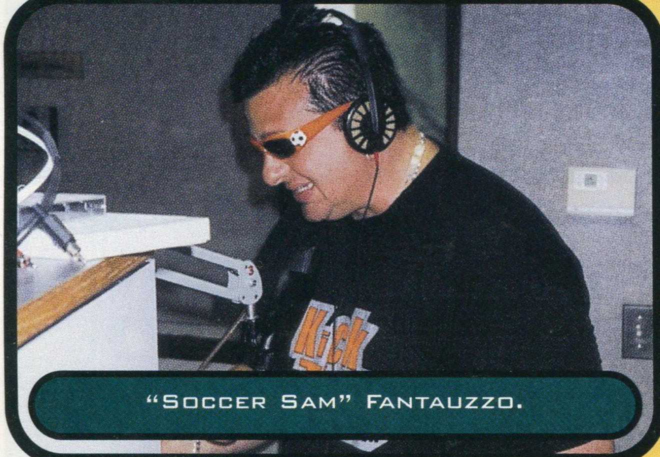
WHTK Program Director Jeff Howlett agrees. "I've had non soccer fans tell me they enjoy the show."

"Kick This!" is not a show about stats, scores, and standings. Its primary theme is for everyone to have a good time. That goes for guests, too.

"We've had Alexi Lalas, Mia Hamm... some of the biggest stars of the country. We're laughing with them, breaking their chops," says Soccer Sam. "It gets fans to like them even more."

With so much to cover in just two hours, the show moves at a break-neck pace. The first hour, hosted by DiVeronica, Lalka, and Donald, is devoted to the local soccer scene. The 11am hour's focus goes to a world and national scene, hosted by former Rhino Kennel and Spacone, the founder of "Sam's Army." Kennel writes and produces zany "bits" - everything from a country bumpkin saying he doesn't get the sport, to up-beat bumper music to keep the energy of the show flowing.

Adds Howlett: "There is one reason for the success of 'Kick this!', and that's Soccer Sam. The energy and enthusiasm he brings to the show makes it enjoyable to listen to."



"Soccer Sam" Fantauzzo.

"A Kick in the Grass" WWWG-AM (1460)
Sundays 1 PM - 2 PM

Hosts: Charlie Schiano, Alex Loj, Wayne Fuller, Joe Sirianni.

Where "Kick This!" can be considered a cross between "Wayne's World" and the World Cup, "A Kick in the Grass" has a different approach. In the mold of ESPN's "The Sports Reporters", "A Kick in the Grass," features local soccer experts that tackle the issues of the day. The show also has the unique perspective of tying in the past to the NASL Rochester Lancers - Schiano, former owner; Fuller, former play-by play voice of the Lancers, and Loj, former beat writer for the Democrat and Chronicle. Loj can also be heard as a contributor to the "Bob Matthews Show" weeknights from 6-8 PM on 1180 WHAM.

Looking for answers today to soccer's hot topics? Schiano says look to history, which he was a part of.

"I love this debate about a World Cup game being decided by penalty shots," says Schiano. "Those who are against it say 'let's play 15 minute quarters until somebody scores.' Well, I was the guy who suggested this rule, called the 'Schiano Rule', back in '70-'71, and that caused the longest game in the history of soccer, which was played in Rochester in 1971 against the Dallas Tornado. 178 minutes and 43 seconds. That game almost went to 3 o'clock in the morning. The following game against Dallas went for 143 minutes. So to show you by example, that's a terrible idea - it would kill the players, and TV will not accommodate you."

"Coaches Corner" News 1040 AM WYSL
Saturdays 9:30 AM - 10 AM

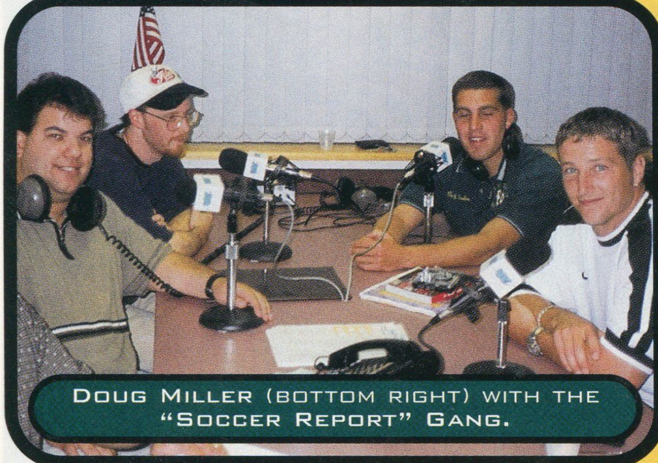
Hosts: Thom Abraham, Doug Lippincott, Curt Smith

Here's a show that began as a general sports show, but over the course of this season, has evolved into a soccer show.

"We get all of our soccer in before 10 AM, so we can beat Jeff DiVeronica and Soccer Sam to the punch," jokes Abraham.

Abraham, the sports director for News 1040, is using one of the basic rules of radio - play the hot hand, and soccer is most certainly hot in Rochester now. Abraham knows this, as his station is the flagship station for Rhinos play-by-play action.

"The Rhinos have given us a tremendous amount of exposure," says Abraham. "We feel the Rhinos are as valuable to Rochester as any sports franchise in the area."



Doug Miller (bottom right) with the "Soccer Report" Gang.

"Soccer Report" WWWG-AM (1460)
Mondays: 8 PM - 9 PM

Hosts: Sam Mongiovi, Joe Giuliano

A place to recap the week's soccer action, the "Soccer Report" features news and guests from the local and national soccer scene.

For Mongiovi, hosting a soccer show is his way of staying connected to the sport he loves. A former player on the ODP team (Olympic Development Program), he also competed in the Empire State Games. A second operation on his left knee forced Mongiovi to stay off the field.

"If by some miracle I could play again, I would quit the show," says Mongiovi, whose passion for the game translates well on radio. Giuliano is a veteran of the Rochester sports radio wars who has knowledge and tremendous passion for the game.

Past in-studio guests have included Rhinos forward Doug Miller and midfielder Tommy Tanner.

SCOTT SCHWEITZER



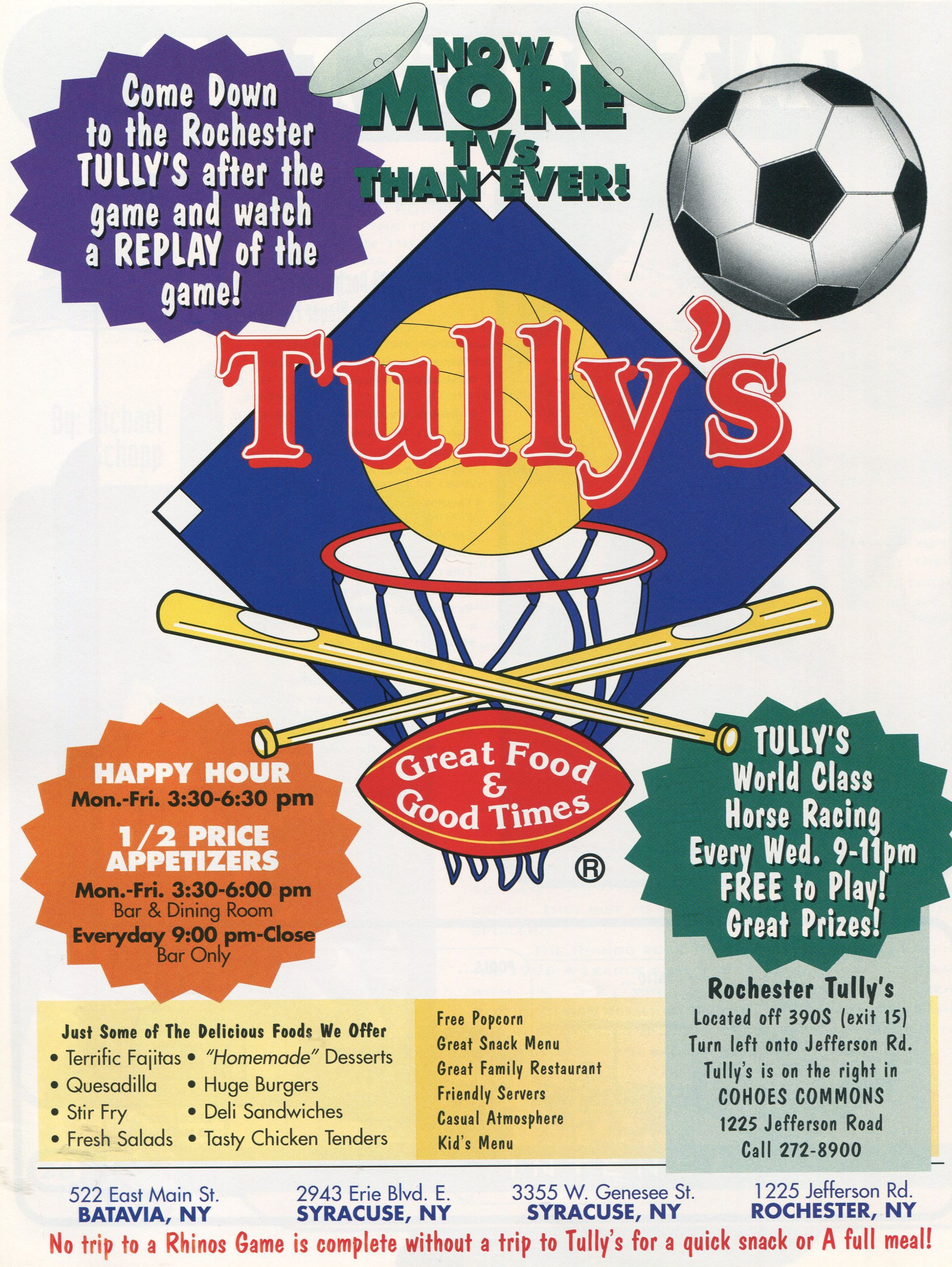
DEFENDER NO. 4

1998 Rochester Raging Rhinos Player Profile

FAVORITE MOVIE: FRIDAY
FAVORITE ACTOR: BRAD PITT
FAVORITE ACTRESS: MINNIE DRIVER
FAVORITE BAND/MUSICIAN: THE NOTORIOUS B.I.G.
FAVORITE TV SHOW: SEINFELD
FAVORITE FOOD: TOMMY TANNER'S PESTO
FAVORITE SOCCER PLAYER (PAST OR PRESENT): SOCRATES
FAVORITE NON-SOCCER PLAYING ATHLETE: GARY PAYTON
FAVORITE NON-SOCCER SPORT TO WATCH: BASKETBALL
FAVORITE NON-SOCCER SPORT TO PLAY: BASKETBALL
FIRST JOB: NEW JERSEY BEACH BADGE-CHECKER
FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
HOBBIES: COLLECTING COMPACT DISCS AND BASEBALL HATS
FIRST CAR: JEEP LAREDO
FAVORITE THING ABOUT ROCHESTER: SOCCER FANS
WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE OFFSEASON?: PLAYED FOR THE CLEVELAND CRUNCH (NPSL)

1997 A-League First Team All-Star

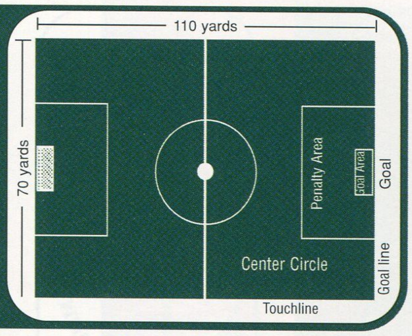
1998 A-League All-Star Game Selection



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• Quesadilla • Huge Burgers
• Stir Fry • Deli Sandwiches
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Great Snack Menu
Great Family Restaurant
Friendly Servers
Casual Atmosphere
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3355 W. Genesee St. SYRACUSE, NY
1225 Jefferson Rd. ROCHESTER, NY
No trip to a Rhinos Game is complete without a trip to Tully's for a quick snack or A full meal!

CONDENSED LAWS OF THE GAME

LAW I: Field of Play



LAW II: Ball The ball is made of leather or other safe, approved material: 27 to 28 inches in circumference, 14 to 16 inches, inflated to a pressure of 9.0 to 10.5 psi.

LAW III: Number of Players A maximum of 11 players on the field for each team, one of whom must be designated as a goalkeeper. Up to two substitutes may be used by each team.

LAW IV: Players' Equipment Jersey, shorts, stockings, shinguards and shoes. The goalkeeper's jersey color must distinguish him from other players and the referee. A player may not wear anything dangerous to another player.

LAW V: Referee One referee is appointed for each match. He is responsible for enforcement of the Laws; serving as timekeeper; disciplining players; stopping the match if, in his opinion, a player has been seriously hurt; preventing persons other than the players and linesmen from entering the field without his permission. All decisions by the referee are final.

LAW VI: Linesmen Two linesmen are appointed to assist the referee in controlling the match by indicating offsides when a ball has crossed a touchline and which team should put it back into play with a throw-in; when a ball has crossed a goal line and whether it should be put back into play with a goal kick or corner kick; when an infraction has been committed; and whether a goal has been scored fairly.

LAW VII: Duration of the Games Two equal periods of 45 minutes. The referee may extend the time for long or unusual delays, such as injury or time-wasting by a team. (Note: A-League rules call for a sudden-death overtime period of 15 minutes and, if necessary, a shoot-out tiebreaker when a match is tied after 105 minutes of regulation play.)

LAW VIII: Start of Play The team that wins the coin flip can either choose which end of the field it wishes to defend or take the kickoff. Each team must remain on its own half of the field and the defending players must be a minimum of 10 yards away from the ball until it is kicked forward and rolled its full circumference. A goal cannot be scored directly from kickoff. After a goal, the team scored upon kicks off. After halftime the kickoff is taken by the team that did not kick off to start the game. Drop ball: When the referee stops play for a reason other than a rule infraction or a delay such as a player injury, he restarts play by dropping the ball where the ball was when the play was stopped. A drop ball is not in play until it hits the ground.

LAW IX: Ball In and Out of Play The ball is out of play when (a) it has completely crossed the goal-line or touchline, whether on the ground or in the air, or (b) the game has been stopped by the referee. The ball is in play at all other times from the beginning to the end of a half, including when it remains on the field after striking the referee, linesmen, goal post, crossbar, or corner flag; and after an assumed infringement of the Laws, until the referee stops play.

LAW X: Method of Scoring A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has passed over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the crossbar while it is legally in play.

LAW XI: Offside A player is in an offside position if he is nearer to his opponent's goal line than the ball, unless (a) he is in his own half of the field of play, or (b) there are at least two of his opponents as close or closer to their own goal. A player is penalized for being in an offside position only if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by a teammate, he is (in the opinion of the referee) (a) interfering with play with an opponent, or (b) seeking to gain an advantage by being in that position. A player is not declared offside by the referee (a) merely because of his being in an offside position, or (b) if he receives the ball directly from a goal kick, corner kick or throw-in, or when it has been dropped by the referee.

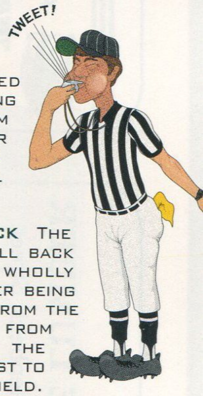
LAW XII: Fouls and Misconduct A team whose player intentionally attempts or actually kicks, trips, jumps at, charges violently, charges from behind, strikes or spits at, holds or pushes an opponent, or handles the ball is penalized by a direct kick. Any one of these nine offenses committed in the penalty area by a defender results in the awarding of a penalty kick to the attacking team. A team whose player commits less fragrant fouls such as offsides, dangerous play or obstruction is penalized by an indirect free kick. The referee may caution a player (or others) for persistent misconduct, dissent, ungentlemanly conduct or entering the field without permission; the offender is shown a yellow card. The referee also may send off (eject) a player (or others) for violent conduct and/or serious foul play, foul or abusive language, or persistent misconduct after receiving a caution. The player sent off the field may not be replaced.

LAW XIII: Free Kick A direct free kick from which a goal can be scored directly against the offending team; an indirect free kick from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been touched by another player before entering the goal. In both cases, the offending team's player must be at least 10 yards from the ball until the ball has been touched, and the ball must be still. (Note: A-League rules call for defenders to stand at least 15 yards from the ball on all free kicks.)

LAW XIV: Penalty Kick A direct free kick from the penalty spot. All players except the player taking the kick and the opposing player taking the kick and the opposing goalkeeper must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is kicked. The defending goalkeeper may move laterally along the goal line prior to the striking of the ball, but he may not move forward until the ball is struck by the shooter.

LAW XV: Throw-In The method for putting the ball back into play after it has wholly passed over the touchline. A player from the team that did not touch the ball last takes the throw-in from the point on the touchline where the ball exited the field; he throws by using both hands to deliver the ball from behind and over his head; a part of each foot is either on the touchline or on the ground outside the touchline. An indirect free kick will be awarded if a goalkeeper picks up the ball with his hands after receiving a throw-in from a teammate.

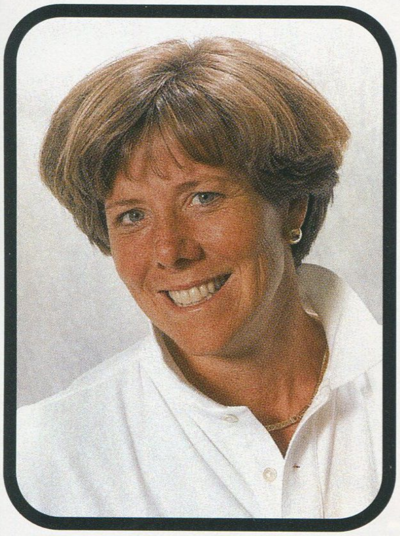
LAW XVI: Goal Kick The method for putting the ball back into play after it has wholly crossed the goal line after being touched by a player from the attacking team. A player from the team that was defending kicks the ball from his own goal area.



LAW XVII: Corner Kick The method for putting the ball back into play after it has wholly crossed the goal line after being last touched by a player from the defending team. A player from the attacking team kicks the ball from the corner nearest to where the ball exited the field.


Rochester RHINOS
SOCCERTOWN USA
CORNER KICK

THE PERFORMANCE CONSULTANT



Dr. Elizabeth **KELLY**

Team: A group organized to work together. The great mystery. Simple in definition, much harder in practice. Coaches (and drill sergeants) throughout the span of history have grappled with the issue of how to mold individuals into a unit. In soccer especially, this is a daunting task – to "get on the same page" is to virtually read your teammates' minds. Toss in language and cultural barriers, a highly demanding soccer community, and an organization where in pride is paramount, and you've got a job for Freud himself.

Dr. Elizabeth Fell Kelly surpassed all the qualifications that the Rhinos were looking for in a sports psychologist. A colleague of Trainer Craig Rand at Monroe Community College, Dr. Kelly was brought in for the 1998 season with hopes that she could help solidify the Rhinos – mentally and physically. Besides serving as the physical education program director at MCC for the last 12 years and teaching professional theory courses for majors for the past 15 years, she also runs her own private sports psychology practice out of her home in Pittsford. At **Performance Consultants**, Dr. Kelly has helped clients ranging from a four-year-old gymnast to an 87-year-old golfer. She has worked with individual sports and team sports. And now she has the responsibility of working with coaches Ercoli, Odoi, and the rest of the Raging Rhinos.

"My primary goal for the Rhinos is to help them with their psychological skills as athletes. Things like anxiety control, goal-setting, concentration, visualization, and relaxation training. We need to focus on making fewer mental mistakes, minimizing distractions, and maintaining mental intensity – both in terms of the beginning to end of a game, and the whole season," said Kelly. "They'll be able to carry these skills onto the field."

As a team, Kelly aims to help create a family community based on honesty, openness, and positive communication. She has been meeting with the entire team on a weekly basis and her input has been welcomed and put into practice, with all early indications pointing to a rediscovered and refocused sense of team unity; this should be attributed both to her work as well as the players' admission of its importance.

Performance Consultants 1 Mile Post Lane Pittsford, NY 14534 385-6276

The Nerve

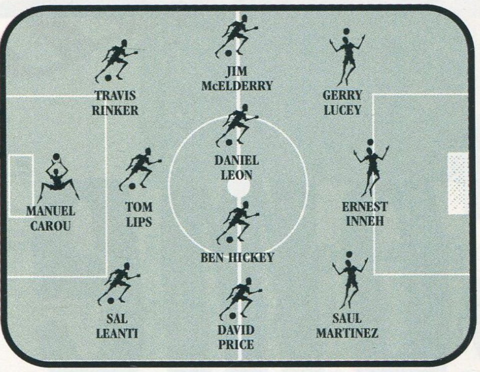
95.1 95.5

UPCOMING GAMES

LONG ISLAND ROUGH RIDERS

UNIONDALE, NEW YORK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1 - 7:35 P.M.



OWNERS: LONG ISLAND PROFESSIONAL SOCCER, LLC.
CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT: FRANK BOULTON
HEAD COACH: PAUL RILEY
ASSISTANT COACHES: CESAR MARKOVIC

A-LEAGUE MEMBER SINCE: 1994 (USISL SELECT)
1997 RECORD: 16-12 OVERALL
COLORS: BLUE, WHITE AND RED
HOME FIELD: HOFSTRA STADIUM (CAPACITY 15,000)

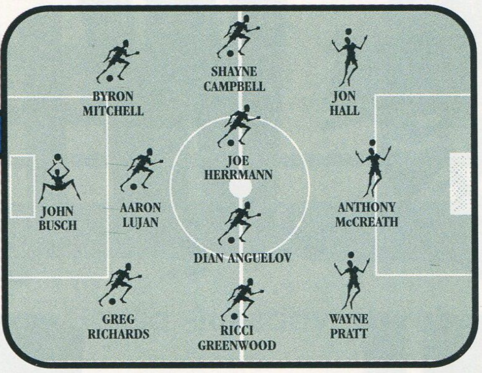
REVENGE WILL BE IN THE AIR WHEN THE LONG ISLAND ROUGH RIDERS MAKE THEIR SECOND AND FINAL TRIP IN 1998 TO FRONTIER FIELD. LONG ISLAND DEFEATED THE RHINOS AT HOFSTRA STADIUM BACK ON JUNE 25, 1998, HANDING ROCHESTER THEIR FIRST LOSS OF THE 1998 SEASON. THE LONG ISLANDERS WON THE MATCH 2-1 VIA SHOOTOUT, AND UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE RHINOS, SHOOTOUTS HAVE BECOME QUITE COMMONPLACE WHEN THESE TWO TEAMS SQUARE OFF. IN THE LAST SEVEN ROCHESTER-LONG ISLAND MATCHES, INCLUDING THE 1997 POST-SEASON, THE ROUGH RIDERS HAVE ESCAPED WITH FIVE VICTORIES, INCLUDING FOUR SHOOTOUT WINS.

GUIDING THE ROUGH RIDERS IS FIRST-YEAR COACH PAUL RILEY, A FORMER CAPTAIN AND ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE ROUGH RIDERS. DEFENDER TRAVIS RINKER, AN ALL-STAR FOR THE LAST FOUR SEASONS, IS THE JEWEL OF LONG ISLAND'S IMPRESSIVE ROSTER. LEADING THE OFFENSIVE ATTACK IS A PAIR OF 22-YEAR-OLD FORWARDS IN SAUL MARTINEZ AND ROGERIO LIMA, AND MINDING THE NETS WILL BE MANUEL CAROU.

HAMPTON ROADS MARINERS

VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 - 7:35 P.M.



OWNERS: MARK GARCEA, PAGE JOHNSON
GENERAL MANAGER/ HEAD COACH: SHAWN McDONALD
ASSISTANT COACH: CHARLIE MORGAN
A-LEAGUE MEMBER SINCE: 1998
COLORS: WHITE AND NAVY
HOME FIELD: VIRGINIA BEACH SPORTS PLEX (CAPACITY 12,000)

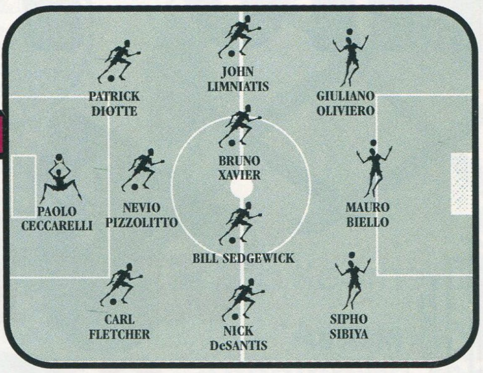
THE HAMPTON ROADS MARINERS, IN THEIR FIRST YEAR IN THE A-LEAGUE, WILL BE MAKING THEIR FIRST-EVER APPEARANCE AT FRONTIER FIELD. THE MARINERS SPENT THE 1997 SEASON ON HIATUS AFTER ADVANCING TO THE SELECT LEAGUE TOURNAMENT IN 1996. THE TEAM HAS MET WITH SOME SUCCESS IN THEIR INAUGURAL A-LEAGUE CAMPAIGN, QUALIFYING FOR A BERTH IN THE U.S. OPEN CUP TOURNAMENT BEFORE BOWING OUT AT THE HANDS OF THE METROSTARS (MLS).

HEAD COACH/GENERAL MANAGER SHAWN McDONALD HAS COACHED SOME INCARNATION OF A HAMPTON ROADS TEAM (A-LEAGUE OR USISL SELECT) SINCE 1994. HIS ROSTER THIS SEASON IS LED BY GOALKEEPER JOHN BUSCH, WHO HAS CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED A POSITION AMONG THE LEAGUE'S ELITE KEEPERS THIS SEASON. THE TEAM'S LEADING SCORER THIS SEASON HAS BEEN DIAN ANGUELOV, A 1997 A-LEAGUE SECOND TEAM ALL-STAR WITH THE RICHMOND KICKERS.

MONTREAL IMPACT

ST. LEONARD, QUEBEC (CANADA)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 - 6:05 P.M.



OWNERS: SAPUTO GROUP
PRESIDENT: JOEY SAPUTO
DIR. OPERATIONS: DANIEL COURTOIS
HEAD COACH: PAUL KITSON
ASSISTANT COACH: FRANCIS MILLIEN
A-LEAGUE MEMBER SINCE: 1994
1997 RECORD: 21-7
COLORS: WHITE, BLUE AND BLACK
HOME FIELD: CLAUDE-ROBILLARD STADIUM (CAPACITY: 7,500)

THE MONTREAL IMPACT AND ROCHESTER RHINOS LOOK TO WRITE THE LATEST CHAPTER OF THEIR STORIED RIVALRY WHEN THE IMPACT MAKE THEIR SECOND AND FINAL 1998 APPEARANCE AT FRONTIER FIELD ON AUGUST 16. THIS GAME WILL, MOST LIKELY, DETERMINE THE FIRST-PLACE FINISHER IN THE NORTHEAST DIVISION. THE IMPACT HAVE BEEN KNOCKING ON THE RHINOS' HEALS FOR MOST OF THE SEASON, WHICH INCLUDED A STRETCH MIDWAY THROUGH THE SEASON IN WHICH THEY WON SEVEN STRAIGHT GAMES. EARLIER THIS SEASON, ROCHESTER DEFEATED MONTREAL ON THE STRENGTH OF A NATE DALIGCON GOAL AT MONTREAL'S CLAUDE-ROBILLARD STADIUM. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME EVER THAT THE RHINOS HAVE WON ON MONTREAL'S HOME TURF DURING THE REGULAR SEASON.

LEADING THE IMPACT INTO ROCHESTER IS A FAMILIAR CAST OF ALL-STAR CHARACTERS INCLUDING GOALKEEPER PAOLO CECCARELLI, AND MIDFIELDERS MAURO BIELLO, NICK DESANTIS, AND BILL SEDGEWICK. BOTH BIELLO AND DESANTIS HAVE CONSISTENTLY RANKED AMONG THE LEAGUE'S TOP SCORERS IN 1998, JUST A YEAR AFTER THEY BOTH POSTED A LEAGUE-HIGH 10 ASSISTS. THE A-LEAGUE'S 1997 DEFENDER OF THE YEAR, JOHN LIMNIATIS, WILL BE PROWLING THROUGH MONTREAL'S END OF THE FIELD.

COOKS etc.

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Webster, NY 14580
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Rochester Raging RHINOS

Good Luck Rhinos!

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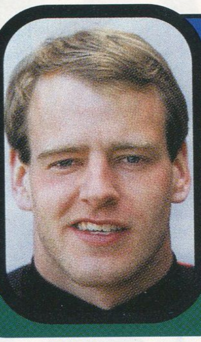
For Admissions Information about Bishop Kearney High School please contact Kristin Stallone, Director of Communications at (716) 342-4000

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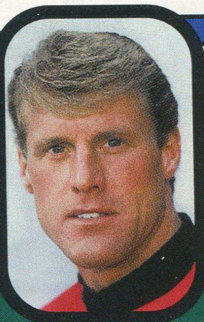
1998 ROCHESTER RA

Rochester Raging Rhinos

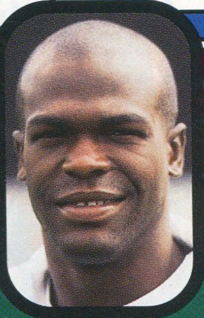
SOCCERTOWN USA



RETT THOMPSON — 0
GOALKEEPER
HT: 6' 4"
WT: 200
BORN: 11.17.69 ROCHESTER NY
'97 CLUB: ROCHESTER - A



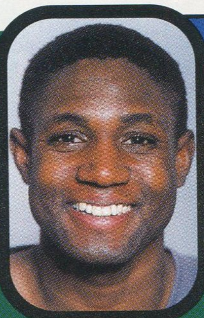
BILLY ANDRACKI — 1
GOALKEEPER
HT: 6' 0"
WT: 185
BORN: 5.25.69 PRINCE WILLIAM VA
'97 CLUB: ROCHESTER - A, BUFFALO - NPSL



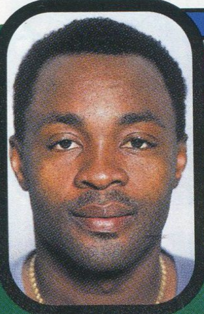
MALI WALTON — 6
DEFENDER
HT: 6' 1"
WT: 180
BORN: 4.25.72 FLINT MI
'97 CLUB: ROCHESTER - A, PHILADELPHIA - A



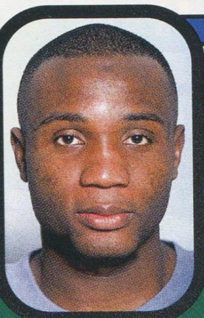
TOMMY TANNER — 8
MIDFIELDER
HT: 5' 8"
WT: 150
BORN: 3.10.68 SYRACUSE NY
'97 CLUB: ROCHESTER - A, CLEVELAND - NPSL



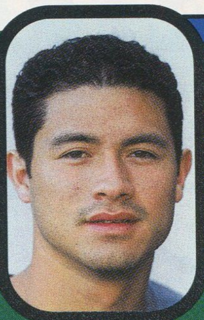
MIKE BRITTON — 9
DEFENDER
HT: 5' 9"
WT: 170
BORN: 8.4.70 ROCHESTER NY
'97 CLUB: HOUSTON - CISL



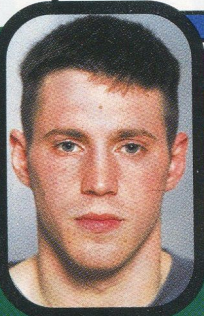
EZIKIEL ALAMO — 15
MIDFIELDER
HT: 5' 8"
WT: 160
BORN: 10.26.72 ACCRA GHANA
'97 CLUB: ROCHESTER - A



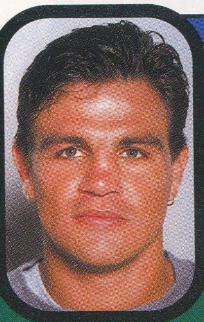
FUSEINI DAUDA — 17
DEFENDER
HT: 6' 2"
WT: 185
BORN: 5.29.75 ACCRA GHANA
'97 CLUB: ROCHESTER - A, DETROIT - NPSL



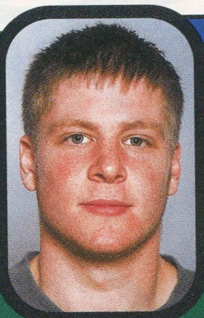
JIMMY GLENN — 18
FORWARD
HT: 5' 11"
WT: 180
BORN: 8.9.72 MONTEREY CA
'97 CLUB: ROCHESTER - A, BUFFALO - NPSL



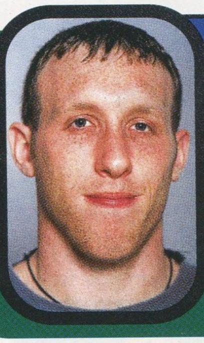
MICHAEL DOMM — 22
FORWARD
HT: 5' 10"
WT: 175
BORN: 4.10.75 ROCHESTER NY
'97 CLUB: SUNY FREDONIA



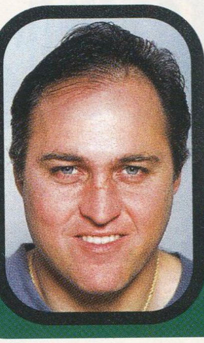
LENIN STEENKAMP — 23
MIDFIELDER
HT: 6' 0"
WT: 180
BORN: 9.9.69 SOUTH AFRICA
'97 CLUB: ROCHESTER - A



KIRK DIETRICH — 24
FORWARD
HT: 5' 8"
WT: 155
BORN: 5.25.76 CLEVELAND OH
'97 CLUB: UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

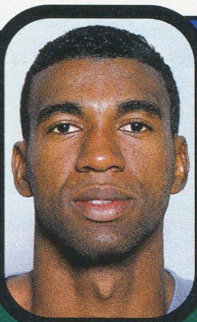


JOSH FREEMAN — 29
GOALKEEPER
HT: 6' 2"
WT: 195
BORN: 8.8.76 TENAFLY NJ
'97 CLUB: SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

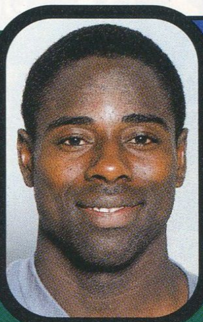


PAT ERCOLI — HC
HEAD COACH

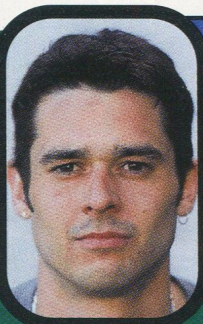
GING RHINOS ROSTER



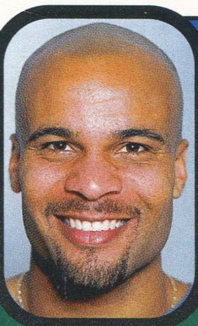
2 — MAURO DaSILVA
- DEFENDER
- HT: 5' 8"
- WT: 160
- BORN: 3.14.69 SAO PAOLO BRAZIL
- '97 CLUB: PONTA GROSSA - BRAZILIAN DIV.1



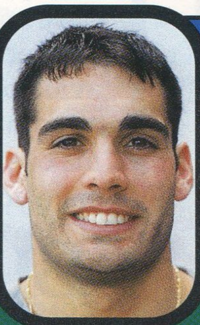
3 — CRAIG DEMMIN
- DEFENDER
- HT: 6' 2"
- WT: 185
- BORN: 5.21.71 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
- '97 CLUB: JACKSON (MS) - PDSL



4 — SCOTT SCHWEITZER
- DEFENDER
- HT: 5' 11"
- WT: 150
- BORN: 8.12.71 RAHWAY NJ
- '97 CLUB: CAROLINA - A CLEVELAND - NPSL



10 — YARI ALLNUTT
- MIDFIELDER
- HT: 5' 11"
- WT: 170
- BORN: 2.17.70 BALTIMORE MD
- '97 CLUB: CAROLINA - A



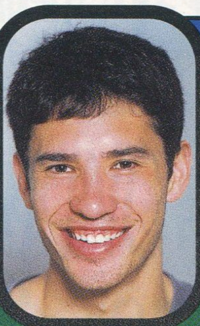
12 — MICHAEL KIRMSE
- MIDFIELDER
- HT: 5' 10"
- WT: 165
- BORN: 12.10.72 LONG ISLAND NY
- '97 CLUB: ROCHESTER - A BUFFALO - NPSL



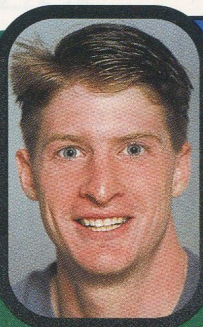
13 — YOGI McKAY
- MIDFIELDER
- HT: 5' 8"
- WT: 160
- BORN: 6.16.65 ROCHESTER NY
- '97 CLUB: ROCHESTER - A BUFFALO - NPSL



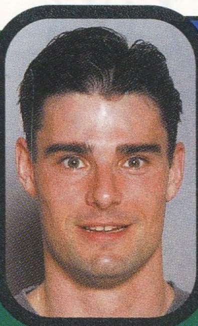
19 — DOUG MILLER
- FORWARD
- HT: 5' 8"
- WT: 155
- BORN: 5.5.69 NEWARK NJ
- '97 CLUB: ROCHESTER - A BUFFALO - NPSL



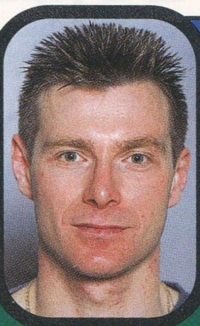
20 — NATE DALIGCON
- MIDFIELDER
- HT: 5' 9"
- WT: 145
- BORN: 8.9.74 SEATTLE WA
- '97 CLUB: ROCHESTER - A SEATTLE - A



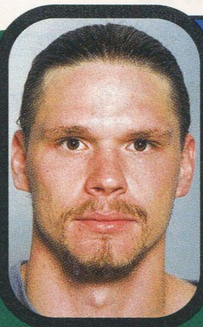
21 — JOE MERCIK
- DEFENDER
- HT: 6' 1"
- WT: 170
- BORN: 2.17.75 ROCHESTER NY
- '97 CLUB: ROCHESTER - A



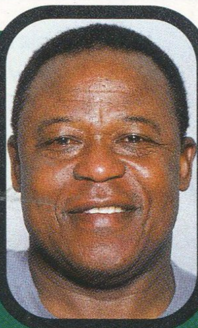
25 — PAT ONSTAD
- GOALKEEPER
- HT: 6' 4"
- WT: 215
- BORN: 1.13.68 VANCOUVER BC
- '97 CLUB: TORONTO - A



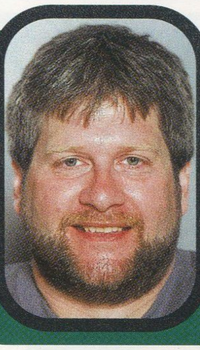
26 — DARREN TILLEY
- FORWARD
- HT: 6' 3"
- WT: 185
- BORN: 3.15.67 KEYNSHAM ENG
- '97 CLUB: TORONTO - A MONTREAL - A



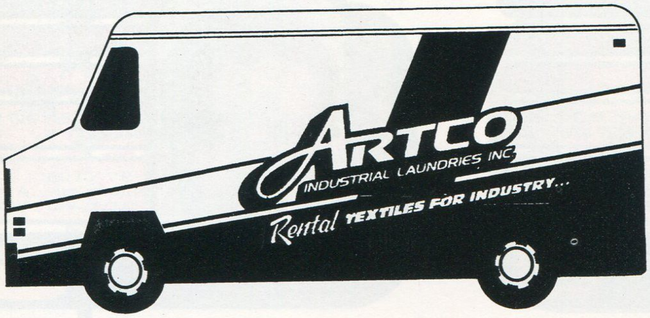
27 — TIM HARDY
- DEFENDER
- HT: 6' 0"
- WT: 175
- BORN: 2.18.73 DETROIT MI
- '97 CLUB: RICHMOND - A



AC — FRANK ODOI
- ASSISTANT COACH



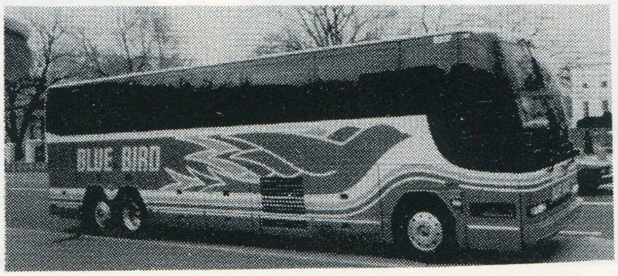
HT — CRAIG RAND
- HEAD TRAINER



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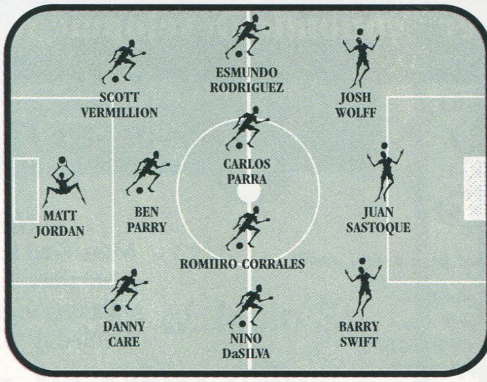
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UPCOMING GAMES



U.S. PRO-40 SELECT

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

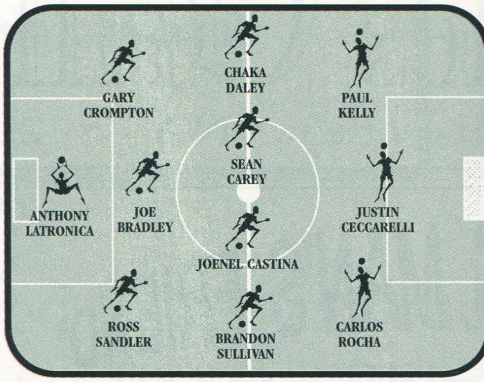
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30 - 7:05 P.M.

OWNER: MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER
COMMISSIONER: DOUGLAS G. LOGAN
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER: SUNIL GULATI
GENERAL MANAGER: JAN OSBOURNE
HEAD COACH: LOTHAR OSIANDER
A-LEAGUE MEMBER SINCE: INAUGURAL SEASON

The U.S. Pro-40 Select team is made up entirely of players from Major League Soccer's Project-40 program. Project 40, which consists of 22 players ages 18-22 years old, is a joint venture between Major League Soccer and U.S. Soccer, aimed at providing America's youth soccer-playing talent with the valuable training opportunity at the level needed to enhance the United States' international success. All 28 of the team's A-League matches will be played at the opponents' venue.

Long-time U.S. Soccer staff coach and former Los Angelas Galaxy Head Coach Lothar Osiander will be running the sidelines for the Select. Osiander was hired for the position on June 9, 1998 after former coach Tim Hankinson was named head coach of the Tampa Bay Mutiny of MLS. Osiander, who most recently served as an assistant coach with the Mutiny, brings more than 20 years of coaching experience to the team.

Select Info: All players spend each week with their respective MLS clubs, with 18-20 players reporting each weekend based on the game's location and the wishes of the players' Major League Soccer coaches.



WORCESTER WILDFIRE

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

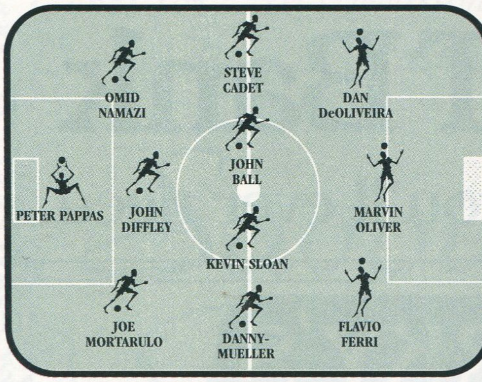
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 - 7:35 P.M.

OWNERS: SOCCER, INC.
PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER: TOM BAGLEY
HEAD COACH: JOHN KERR, JR.
ASSISTANT COACH: MICHAEL RIORDAN
A-LEAGUE MEMBER SINCE: 1996 (USISL SELECT)
1997 RECORD: 7-21
COLORS: WHITE AND RED
HOME FIELD: FOLEY STADIUM (CAPACITY: 5,000)

Worcester has made some key additions to their soccer department with hopes of erasing the memory of their 1997 season, in which they posted the second worst record in the A-League at 7-21. Through the first 16 games this season, the Wildfire already matched their 1997 win total. Farrukh Quirishi, a former player development consultant for Major League Soccer, has joined the club as a special consultant, and former U.S. National Team player John Kerr, Jr. is the Wildfire's new head coach. Kerr spent the last two season's working with MLS's New England Revolution.

On the field, stalwart Gary Crompton, who lead the 1997 team in minutes played, anchors the defense. Alongside Crompton will be newcomer Joe Bradley from the Cap Cod Crusaders (USISL-III). Returning forward Justin Ceccarelli and newcomer Carlos Rocha look to lead the offensive attack for the Wildfire.

Earlier this season, the Rhinos recorded a pair of 3-0 victories over the Wildfire with Doug Miller scoring three goals in the two-game set. Rochester now holds a 3-1 advantage all-time, outscoring Worcester 12-3 in the four games.



STATEN ISLAND VIPERS

STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 - 7:35 P.M.

OWNERS: CORRADO JOE MANFREDI, ROGER GOREVIC, LARRY ZIELINSKI
CHAIRMAN: ROGER GOREVIC
HEAD COACH: ADRIAN GAITAN
ASSISTANT COACHES: JUAN OSORIO, EMMANUEL KOFIE, SHAWN TARQUINIO

A-LEAGUE MEMBER SINCE: 1998
COLORS: BLUE AND WHITE
HOME FIELD: TOTTENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL (CAPACITY: 3,000)

The Staten Island Vipers look to break their string of losses at Frontier Field when they travel to the Flower City for the Rhinos' last 1998 regular season home match. In their two previous visits, the Vipers scored only one goal. The Rhinos found the back of the net on five separate occasions. In the first-ever meeting between the two teams, Doug Miller scored in the 27th minute to propel the Rhinos to a 1-0 victory. On July 12, Darren Tilley and Yari Allnutt each tallied two goals in a 4-1 victory.

Goalkeeper Peter Pappas (a 1997-98 NPSL All-Star and Philadelphia Kixx teammate of Mali Walton) had a strong performance against the Rhinos in June, recording eight saves. Despite the Vipers' mediocre win-loss record, this highly-touted keeper has maintained a spot among the A-League's best in goals-against average. Among Pappas' supporting defensive cast is 1998 A-League All-Star Game selection Omid Namazi, the 1997 D3 Pro League Defender of the Year, and John Diffley, a former member of the U.S. National Team.

Dynamite Teammates: Midfielder John Ball played with Rhinos Yari Allnutt and Scott Schweitzer in 1997 with the Carolina Dynamo. That team advanced to the 1997 A-League Championship Game and eventually fell to the Milwaukee Rampage.

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- Gas Log Fireplace
- Verticle Blinds
- Security System
- Free Cable TV
- Spacious Closets
- Outdoor Pool/Clubhouse
- Basement Storage

Floorplans Prices

Floorplans	Prices
1BR/1BA	$695
2BR/2BA	$805
3BR/2BA	$945

FYI

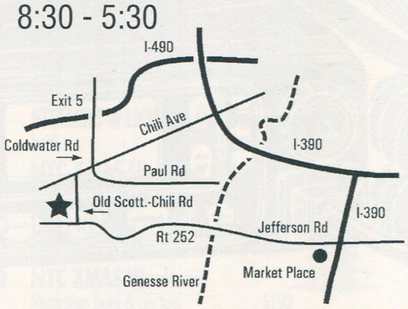
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- Appliance Fee $ 25
- Security Deposit 1 Month rent

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Monday - Friday	8:00 - 5:00
Sat & Sun	8:30 - 5:30

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FOR YOUR INFO

Rhinos Fan Guide To Your Soccer Game Night Enjoyment

ACCESS: Frontier Field is easily accessible from route I-490; Exit from east or west bound I-490 onto Plymouth Avenue. The Main Gate and Ticket Office are located along Morrie Silver Way.

ATM: An Automated Teller Machine is available for use at Frontier Field.

CAMERAS: Fans may bring cameras or camcorders into Frontier Field for their personal use. However, we ask that you do not block anyone else's view of the game, or use flash attachments at any time.

COMMUNITY APPEARANCES: The Rhinos welcome the opportunity to speak to your group. The Rhinos Community Relations Department schedules appearances by players, members of the front office and the team mascot. Contact the Rhinos Community Relations Department for more information.

CONTAINER POLICY/ALCOHOL: Containers with food and/or beverages may not be brought into Frontier Field. Food and Drinks are sold throughout the Stadium for your enjoyment.

EMERGENCY PHONE CALLS: Guest Services is available as a service to fans expecting emergency phone calls. Fans may leave their seat locations with Guest Services and they will be then contacted with the message. Due to the many requests, public address, medical emergency, or video board paging is not permitted.

FAN BEHAVIOR: Our code of behavior is simple - we would like you to enjoy the game in a manner that permits other fans around you to do the same. If your enjoyment is curtailed by rude behavior of fans near you, please report the problem to ushers or security personnel. If you are unsatisfied with the handling of a particular situation, we want to hear from you. Please call or write our offices, Rochester Raging Rhinos, 333 N. Plymouth Ave., Rochester, N. Y. 14608. The phone number is (716) 454-KICK.

FIRST AID: For those requiring medical assistance for any reason, contact your section's usher or security personnel and they will escort you to the Frontier Field first aid station.

GAME TIMES: All Rhinos home games will begin at 7:35 p.m., except Sunday games, which begin at 6:05 p.m. Check with the Frontier Field ticket window for exhibition/playoff game times. The gates to Frontier Field open one hour before game time. Both teams have a 20 minute warm-up session about 40 minutes before each game.

GROUP TICKETS: The Rhinos have special discounts available for group and multi-game purchases. Contact the Rhinos Group Sales Department at (716) 454-KICK.

GUEST SERVICES: The Guest Services Booth is located on the Main Concourse near the Main Gates and operates from the time the Stadium opens until after the game ends. Fans may obtain information and assistance, offer suggestions or register complaints at the Guest Services Booth.

HANDICAPPED SEATING: Handicapped seating is available at Frontier Field. Please contact either the Frontier Field Ticket Office or the Rhinos Office for information and assistance.

LOST AND FOUND: Contact the security person near your section and they will escort you to the Frontier Field Offices.

MAILING ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS: The Rhino Offices are located on site at Frontier Field at 333 North Plymouth Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14608. Our phone number is (716) 454-KICK, and our fax number is (716) 454-5453. Fan mail for individual players and coaches should be sent to them directly at that address.

PETS: Pets are not allowed at Frontier Field. Guide dogs and seeing-eye dogs are the exception - they are allowed in Frontier Field.

RADIO COVERAGE: WYSL News 1040-AM is the flagship station of the Rhinos Radio Network, which covers all home and away games. WBER (FM-90.5) will also carry all of the Rhinos games this season. Don Stevens will be the play-by-play broadcaster, with Don Lalka providing the color commentary for all home games.

RESTROOMS: Restrooms are located on all levels of the Stadium. Diaper changing areas are available in both the men's and women's rooms. A family (Unisex) restroom is available in the Main Concourse.

SMOKING: Smoking is only permitted in the designated areas along the Main Concourse.

SPECIAL SERVICES: Frontier Field provides many services and amenities to accommodate the needs of guests with disabilities. Information may be obtained at Guest Services.

SOUVENIRS: Various merchandise items, including hats, t-shirts, golf shirts, sweatshirts and other Rhinos gifts can be purchased at souvenir stands around Frontier Field or at the Rhinos Team Store. The Rhinos Team Store is located in the historic firehouse near the Walk of Fame. In addition, souvenir items can be purchased at the Rhinos Business Offices during regular business hours. The Rhinos also have a merchandise brochure outlining items that can be purchased through the mail. Write or call the Rhinos Office for one.

TELEPHONES: Pay telephones are located on all levels throughout the Stadium. Two TTY telephones are also available on the Main Concourse level.

TICKETS: Rhinos fans may purchase single-game tickets at the Frontier Field Ticket Window or by calling 423-9464.

Tickets at Frontier Field are:

$16.00 (Premium)
$13.00 (Upper-Center)
$12.00 (Sideline & Lower End)
$11.00 (Upper End)
$8.00 (Upper Corner)

Senior citizens tickets may be purchased at a $2.00 discount for any regular season home game. Group tickets may be purchased by calling the Rhinos Office at (716) 454-KICK.

TOURS: Frontier Field tours are conducted throughout the season. Fans get a chance to view different areas of the Stadium, the clubhouse, press box and the owner's suite. Fans will also receive information on the construction and the amenities of Frontier Field. Special group tours are also available. Please call (716) 262-2009.

WALK OF FAME: The Frontier Field Walk of Fame is a tribute to fans, players and media throughout Rochester's sports history. It is comprised of panels, each displaying a member of Rochester's Sports Walk of Fame, surrounded by bricks with names of fans and businesses who support Rochester's rich tradition of sports history. Bricks can be purchased at the cost of $100.00 per brick. If interested in getting your name on a brick in the Walk of Fame call (716) 777-9642.

WEB SITE: Visit the Official Rhinos Website at www.rhinossoccer.com for all the latest information and updates on the Rhinos.

STADIUM

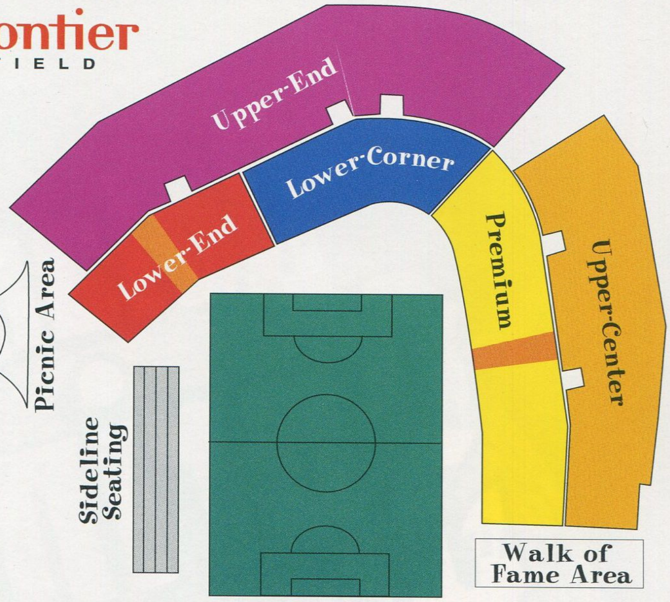
TICKET PRICES

PREMIUM	$ 16
UPPER-CENTER	$ 13
LOWER-END	$ 12
SIDELINE	$ 12
UPPER-END	$ 11
LOWER-CORNER	$ 8

(716) 454 KICK

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frontier FIELD



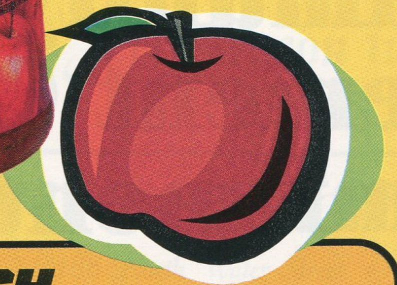
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KIDS AC







RIDDLE SEARCH

The 19 fish listed below are hidden in the grid of letters. Look across, back, up, down and diagonally in the letters, and circle each word you find. The word CARP has been circled as an example.

When you've correctly circled all 19 words, take the uncircled letters from the grid and write them on the blank spaces at the bottom of the page. Keep the letters in order, from left to right and from top to bottom, and you'll discover the answer to this riddle:

WHERE DO FISH SAVE THEIR MONEY?

~~CARP~~
CATFISH
COD
FLUKE
GUPPY
MINNOW
PERCH
PIRANHA
POMPANO
SALMON

C	O	D	P	E	R	C	H	I	S
S	A	L	M	O	N	A	N	N	A
T	H	T	R	S	P	R	A	T	R
U	N	T	F	G	U	P	P	Y	D
R	A	U	I	I	P	V	E	W	I
G	R	R	R	E	S	B	A	O	N
E	I	B	R	N	K	H	A	N	E
O	P	O	M	P	A	N	O	N	L
N	S	T	F	L	U	K	E	I	O
T	R	O	U	T	T	L	E	M	S

SARDINE
SMELT
SNAPPER
SOLE
SPRAT
STURGEON
TROUT
TUNA
TURBOT

RIDDLE ANSWER:

__ ______ ______.

FAVORITE RHINO

Match your favorite Rochester Raging Rhino soccer player with their jersey number. Cross off each number as you go down the list.

For example, Lenin Steenkamp is number 23.

~~23~~ 0 25 6 29 27 20 19 12 26 9 1

23 LENIN STEENKAMP
___ JIMMY GLENN
___ FUSEINI DAUDA
___ MIKE BRITTON
___ SCOTT SCHWEITZER
___ BILLY ANDRACKI
___ TIM HARDY
___ YOGI McKAY
___ YARI ALLNUTT
___ TOMMY TANNER
___ JOSH FREEMAN
___ KIRK DIETRICH
___ MAURO DaSILVA
___ PAT ONSTAD
___ EZIKIEL ALAMO
___ DOUG MILLER
___ NATE DALIGCON
___ DARREN TILLEY
___ MICHAEL DOMM
___ CRAIG DEMMIN
___ RETT THOMPSON
___ MIKE KIRMSE
___ JOE MERCIK
___ MALI WALTON

21 10 24 15 17 2 8 22 3 13 4 18

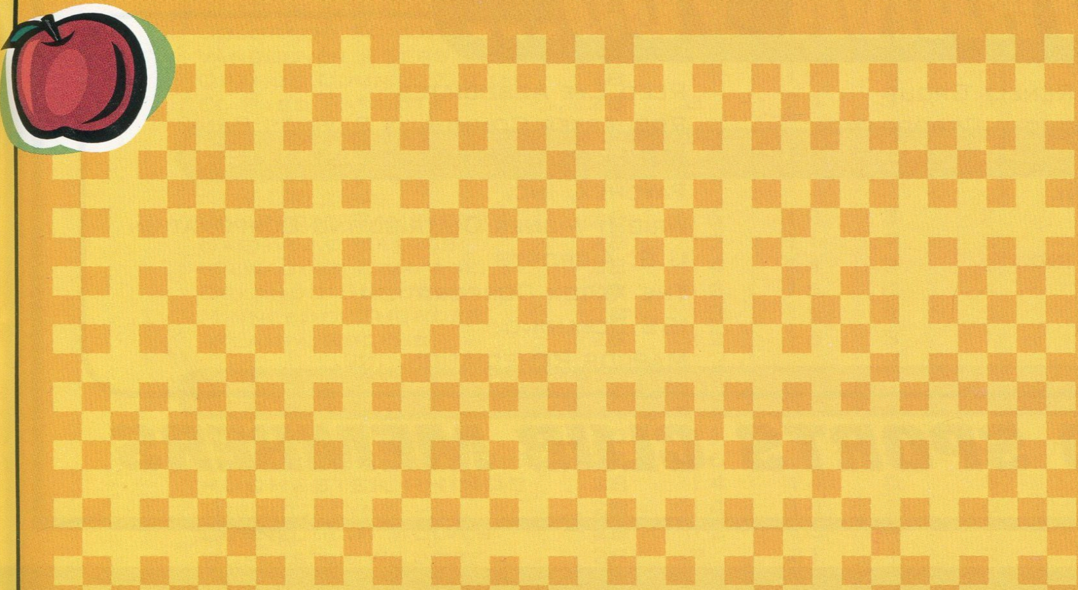






A MAZE THING

Draw a line to connect the apple to the apple sauce. You may draw a line in any direction except diagonally.







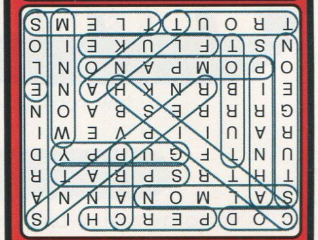


ANSWERS

A MAZE THING



RIDDLE SEARCH



IN RIVER BANKS.

FAVORITE RHINO

23 Lenin Steenkamp
18 Jimmy Glenn
17 Fuseini Dauda
9 Mike Britton
4 Scott Schweitzer
1 Billy Andracki
27 Tim Hardy
13 Yogi McKay
10 Yari Allnutt
8 Tommy Tanner
29 Josh Freeman
24 Kirk Dietrich
2 Mauro Dasilva
25 Pat Onstad
15 Ezikiel Alamo
19 Doug Miller
20 Nate Daligcon
26 Darren Tilley
22 Michael Domm
3 Craig Demmin
0 Rett Thompson
12 Mike Kirmse
21 Joe Mercik
6 Mali Walton

THANK YOU...

Merril Lynch, The Brown-Renelt Group
Nationwide Precision Products Corporation
Chili Plastics
The Chase Manhattan Bank
The Pike Company, Inc.
Doyle Building Services, Inc.
The Flanders Group
The Frontier Corporation
Reed Eye Associates
Rochester Community Savings Bank
ICS/Executone Telecom Inc.
Paychex, Inc.
Wright-Wisner Distributing Corporation
U.S. Airports
The Xerox Corporation
ISS Cleaning
Marcor Remediation, Inc.

...1998-'99 SPORTS CLUB MEMBERS

RHINOS AWARDS

Rhinos Team Awards

Most Valuable Player

1997 Doug Miller
1996 Rene Rivas

First Class Travel Leadership & Dedication Award

1996 - Lenin Steenkamp
1997 - Tommy Tanner

Rhinos A-League Award-Winners

1997 Most Valuable Player - Doug Miller
1997 Top Goal Scorer - Doug Miller
1997 Top Point-Getter - Doug Miller
1996 Top Goal Scorer - Doug Miller

All A-League Rhinos

1997-Doug Miller (1st Team)
1996-Doug Miller (1st Team)
1996-Rene Rivas (1st Team)

'97 STANDINGS

1997 A-League Regular Season Standings

PACIFIC	GP	W	L	SW	SL	GF	GA	PTS
California Jaguars	28	18	10	1	0	48	34	52
Seattle Sounders	28	18	10	2	3	42	19	50
Colorado Foxes	28	16	12	1	2	49	46	46
Vancouver 86ers	28	16	12	1	1	50	29	46
Orange County Zodiac	28	11	17	1	0	35	62	31
El Paso Patriots	28	8	20	3	3	30	50	18

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	SW	SL	GF	GA	PTS
New Orleans Riverboat Gamblers	28	16	12	3	2	45	42	42
Nashville Metros	28	17	11	7	2	42	34	37
Milwaukee Rampage	28	14	14	3	2	33	36	36
Orlando Sundogs	28	12	16	0	4	39	40	36
Minnesota Thunder	28	13	15	2	5	22	30	35
Atlanta Ruckus	28	12	16	3	1	39	48	30

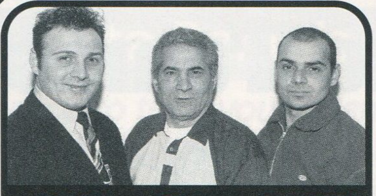
NORTHEAST	GP	W	L	SW	SL	GF	GA	PTS
Montreal Impact	28	21	7	1	1	58	19	61
Long Island Rough Riders	28	16	12	3	2	44	36	42
Rochester Rhinos	28	14	14	0	5	56	47	42
Toronto Lynx	28	14	14	2	0	44	43	38
Connecticut Wolves	28	12	16	4	1	31	45	28
Worcester Wildfire	28	7	21	1	2	26	61	19

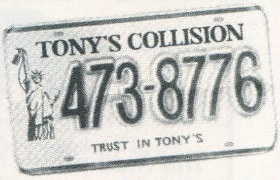
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	SW	SL	GF	GA	PTS
Hershey Wildcats	28	19	9	1	1	56	33	55
Carolina Dynamo	28	18	10	2	2	63	33	50
Richmond Kickers	28	15	13	0	2	41	35	45
Charleston Battery	28	12	16	2	3	39	50	32
Raleigh Flyers	28	12	16	4	3	34	52	28
Jacksonville Cyclones	28	5	23	1	1	28	73	13

Note: Teams earn three points for a regulation or overtime win and one point for a shootout win. Win and loss columns include shootout wins and losses.

1997 A-League Playoff Review

A - Montreal defeated Toronto two games to none
B - Long Island defeated Rochester two games to none
C - Charleston defeated Hershey two games to one
D - Carolina defeated Richond two games to one
E - New Orleans defeated Orlando two games to none
F - Milwaukee defeated Nashville two games to none
G - Vancouver defeated California two games to none
H - Seattle defeated Colorado two games to none
I - Long Island defeated Montreal two games to one
J - Carolina defeated Charleston two games to one
K - Milwaukee defeated New Orleans two games to one
L - Vancouver defeated Seattle two games to one
M - Carolina defeated Long Island two games to none
N - Milwaukee defeated Vancouver two games to one
O - Milwaukee 2, Carolina 1 (SO)





RHINOS GROUP TICKETS

For only $25, each birthday package includes:

- A Rhinos game ticket in the Upper End section.
- Birthday cupcakes for everyone in your group delivered.
- A birthday card from the Rhinos.
- Your picture on the scoreboard at Frontier Field during the game.
- A birthday welcome over the PA system.
- A "Rhinos Magazine" and "Stampede Sheet" insert.
- A special Rhinos birthday gift.

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Additional tickets are $10.00

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Rochester Raging Rhinos SoccerTown USA

PICNICS

Enjoy your night with the Rhinos by hosting a pre-game barbeque at Frontier Field!

SOAKIN'

At the soccer field

Call 716-454-KICK for more information

Watch all the action from the best seat by reserving the Rhinos Pettis Pools Hot Tub located directly on field.

TICKET PRICES

LOCATION	WINDOW PRICE $	20-50 $1 DISC.	50-100 $2 DISC.	100 + $3 DISC.
PREMIUM	$16.00	$15.	$14.	$13.
UPPER CENTER	$13.00	$12.	$11.	$10.
LOWER END	$12.00	$11.	$10.	$ 9.
SIDELINE	$12.00	$11.	$10.	$ 9.
UPPER END	$11.00	$10.	$ 9.	$ 8.
LOWER CORNER	$ 8.	$ 7.	$ 6.	$ 5.

YOUTH SOCCER TEAM DISCOUNT

UPPER END	$ 7.00
SIDELINE	$ 5.00
LOWER CORNER	$ 5.00

GROUP BENEFITS

- Savings of up to 37% on your Rhinos game tickets.
- A welcome to your group over the PA system and video scoreboard.
- No waiting in line for tickets.
- Posters to promote your night with the Rhinos.

Don't Be Left Out!

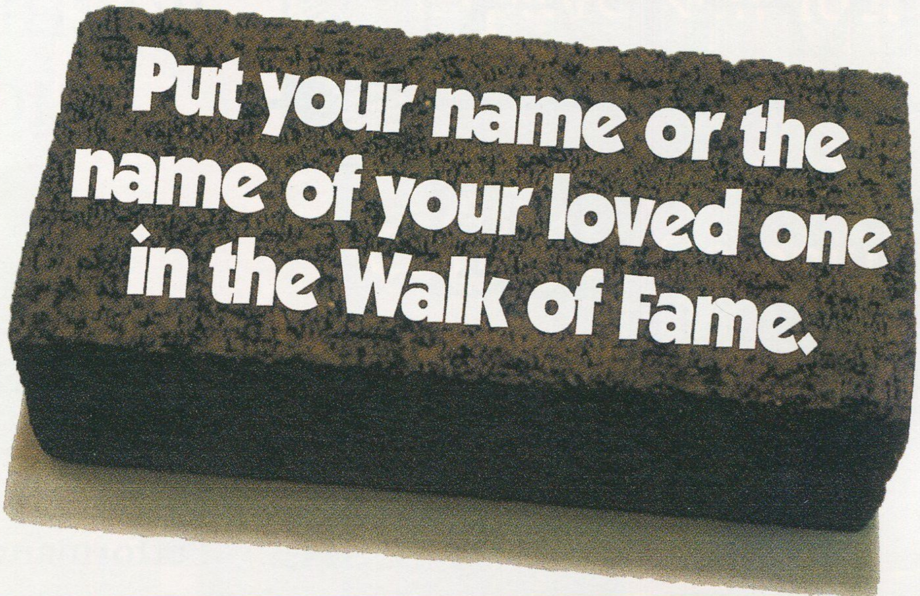
Join the thousands of names already in the "Walk Of Fame"

frontier® FIELD

Have your name or the name of a loved one inscribed on a brick in the Walk Of Fame at Frontier Field and join the family of friends and supporters of Rochester Sports.

Order by phone!

262-2009

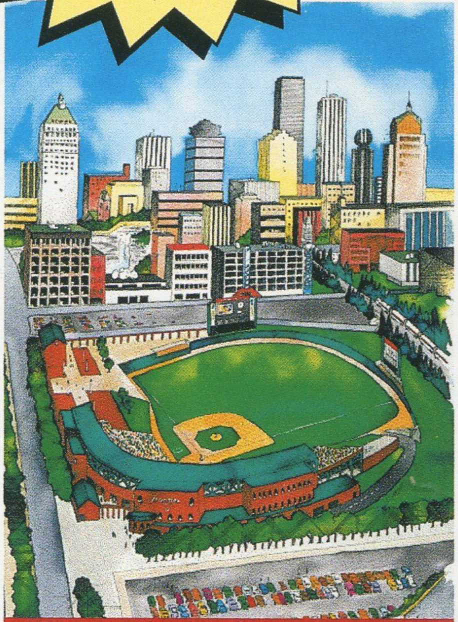


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Daily Stadium Tours available by Appoinment Only April through September. Call 262-2009 for details.

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Tour includes: Playing Field, Dug Outs, Press Box, Clubhouse, Diamond Suites, and much more!



frontier® FIELD

Frontier Field can also be used for

Private Parties & Events

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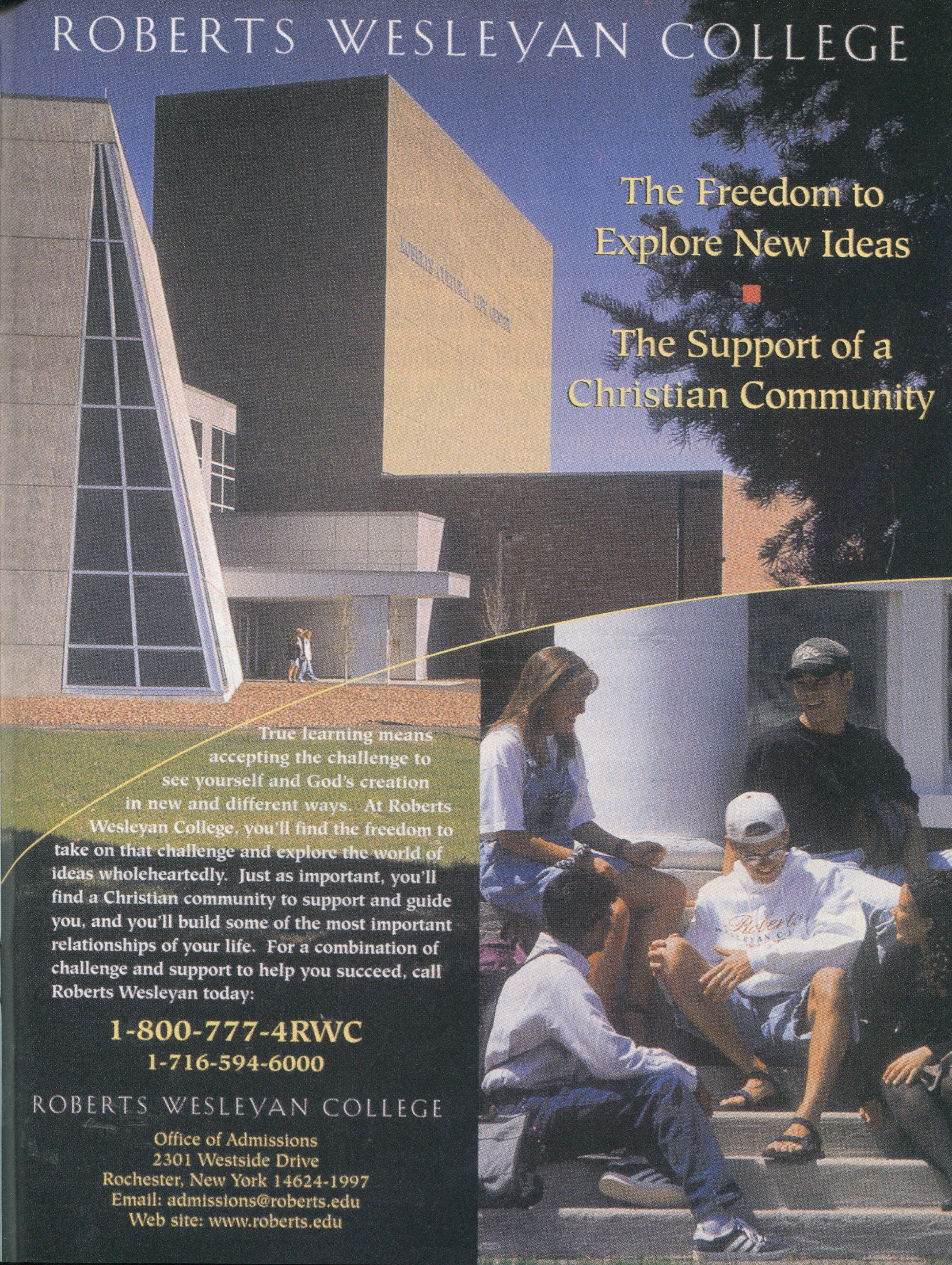
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ENHANCE LIFE THROUGH EXERCISE

Researched & Written by Robert J. Bovee,
Strength Coach & Rehabilitation Specialist for The Rochester Americans, The Rochester Raging Rhinos and The Rochester Knighthawks

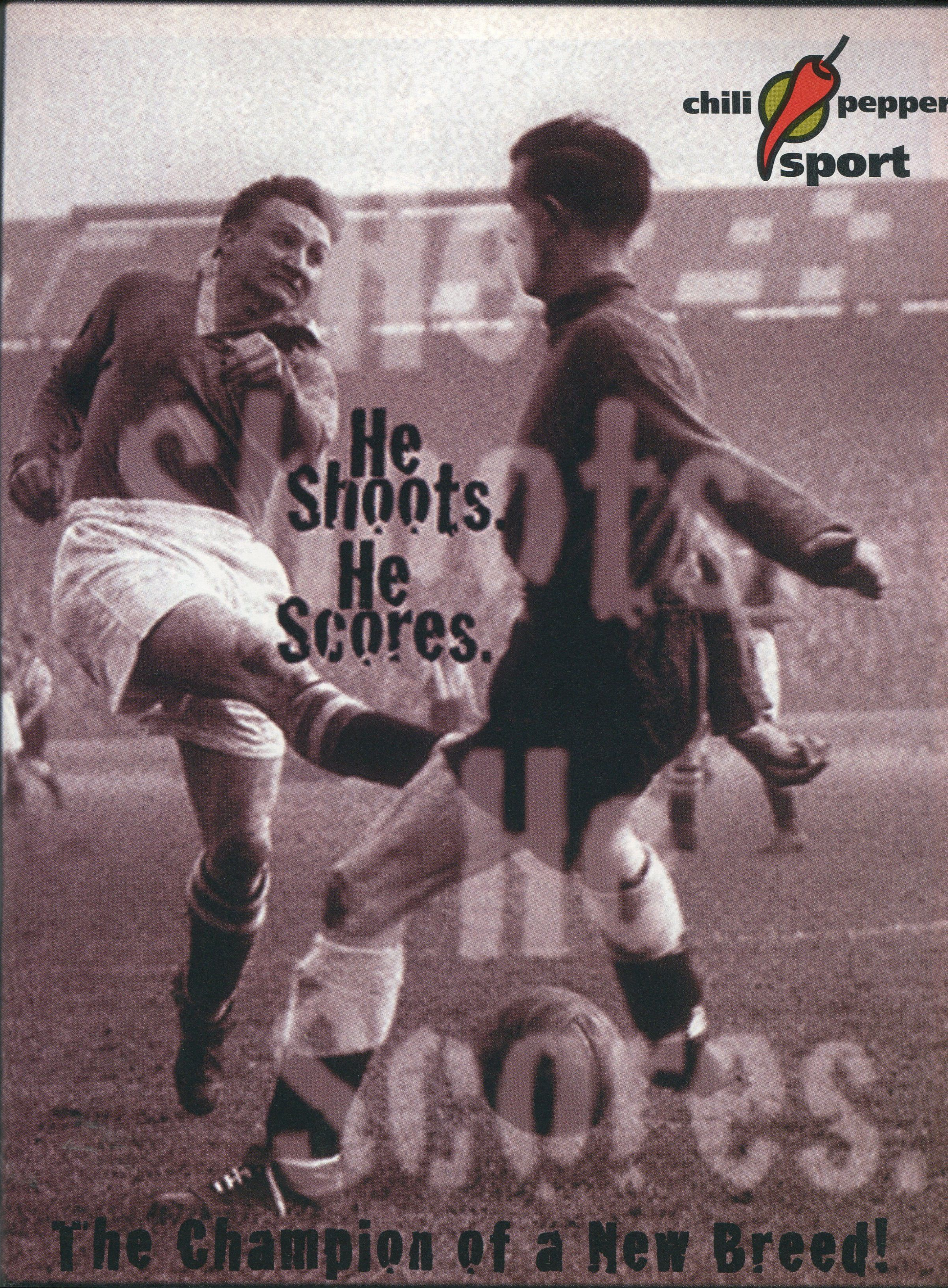
The main objective of my staff and myself is to enhance the lives by helping people become active in a safe, beneficial and fun exercise program. Did you know that a sixty-five year old who is in training can have a greater physical work capacity than a sedentary thirty-five year old? Studies have shown that all age-associated declines, such as loss of bone mass, muscle loss, decreased flexibility, and so on, can be delayed and even reversed by a regular exercise program. Exercise keeps you young. You can start at any age.

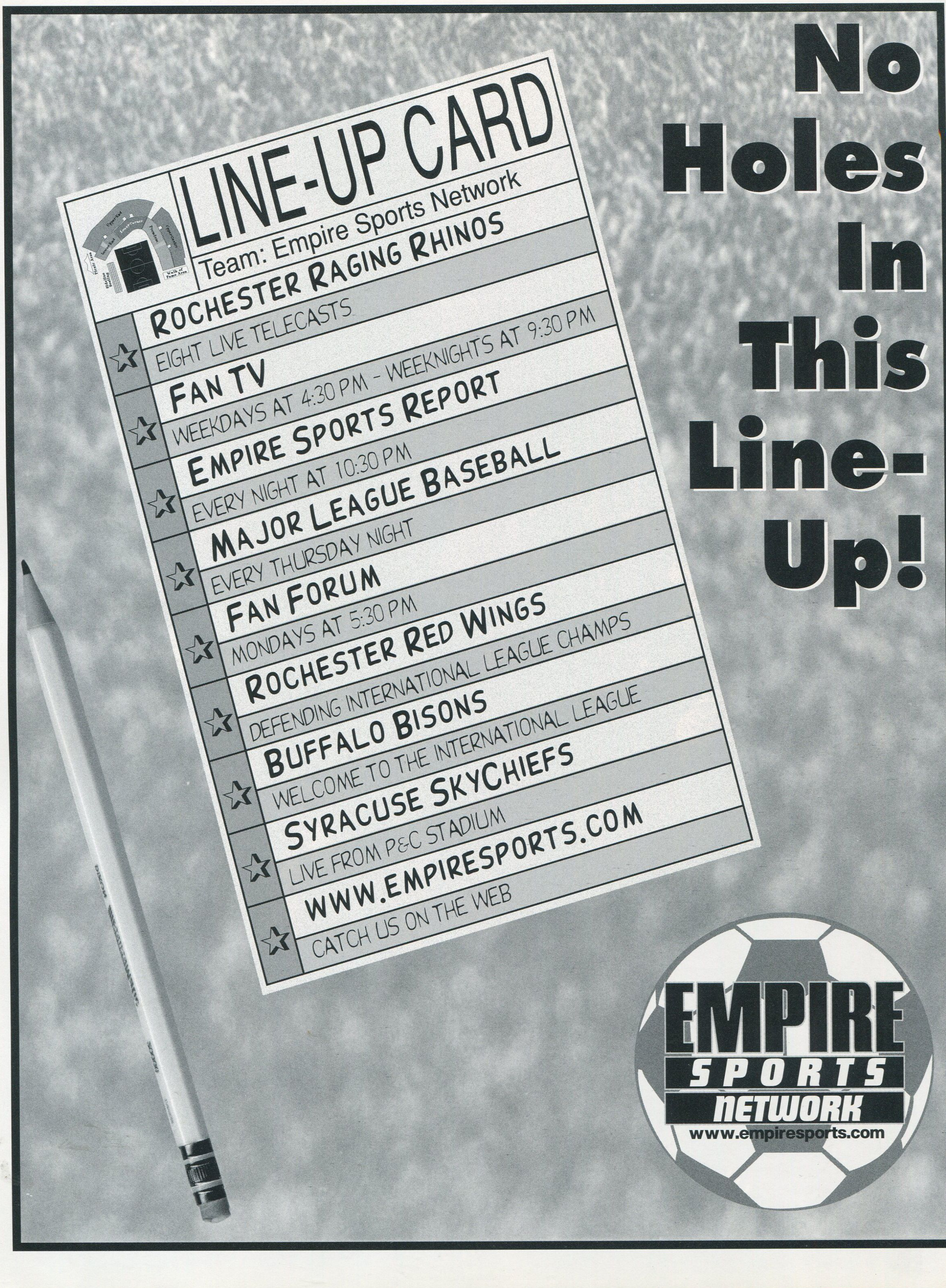
Studies have shown that non-exercising Americans lose at least thirty to forty percent of their strength and ten to twelve percent of their muscle mass by age sixty-five. By age seventy-five, more than one quarter of American men and two thirds of women are unable lift objects heavier than ten pounds. Researchers believe that weight training makes muscles better able to handle stress placed on joint surfaces. Weight-bearing resistance training makes bones stronger by increasing their density. What's more, reversing muscle loss as a result of a sedentary lifestyle that makes you look and feel old, also helps you reduce the risk of the thinning bones of osteoporosis. Increases in mass and size of remaining muscle cells can compensate for ones lost.

As people become inactive, not only do they lose muscle and become weaker, but they develop a sluggish metabolic rate and put on inches of fat even if they don't eat more. As muscle mass decreases and the percentage of body fat increases, one slowly becomes heavier. Aside from the obvious repercussions of gaining fat, such as looking plump and feeling sluggish, the loss of muscle tissue and increase of fat is linked to increased risk of diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. The metabolic changes brought on by muscle building can have a positive effect on blood cholesterol which may protect against heart disease, as well as other conditions fueled by inactivity.

Robert Bovee is also the Senior Fitness Director/Senior Professional Personal Trainer of World Gym Fitness Center and The Personal Health Approach.

For more information, please contact Bob at 271-0440.


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SOCCER TERMS

ADVANTAGE CLAUSE Applied by the referee when, in his opinion, calling a foul would give an advantage to the offending team. No foul is called and the referee signals "play on."

CAUTION A disciplinary action taken by the referee against a player (or others) for persistent misconduct, dissent, ungentlemanly conduct or entering the field without permission. The offender is shown a yellow card; a second offense brings a red card and the player is ejected from the match.

CENTER A ball passed from a wide position on the field into the penalty area. Also called a "cross."

CHIP Pass lofted high over an opponent or opponents to a teammate.

CHARGE Use of the shoulder to force an attacker off-balance and gain possession of the ball.

CLEARANCE A ball thrown (by the goalkeeper), kicked or headed by the defending team away from its own penalty area.

CORNER KICK Direct free kick taken by an attacking player from the corner of the defending team's end of the field. A corner kick is awarded if a ball was last touched by the defending team before going over the defending team's goal line (but not into the goal).

DEFENDER Player who ordinarily is positioned near his own goal behind the midfielders and forwards and whose primary responsibility is the prevention of the opponent from scoring. Also called "fullback".

DIRECT FREE KICK Usually awarded after a foul, The ball is placed in a stationary position and may be kicked directly into the opposition's goal without first being touched by another attacker. Corner kicks and penalty kicks are also direct free kicks.

DRIBBLE Action of a player who advances the ball with a series of short taps with the feet.

DROP BALL Ball dropped by the referee between two opposing players to restart a game after a play has been stopped for a no-penalty situation.

EJECTION A disciplinary action taken by a referee against a player (or others) for violent conduct and/or serious foul play, foul or abusive language, or persistent misconduct after receiving a caution (yellow card). The offender is shown a red card and sent off the field. He may not be replaced by another player.

FIRST-TIME PASS Ball passed without the player first stopping it. Also called "one touch."

FORWARD Player who ordinarily is positioned ahead of the midfielders and whose primary responsibility is to create and score goals. An inside forward is called a "striker."

GOALKEEPER Player who is positioned in his goalmouth and whose primary responsibility is the prevention of goals by the opposition. The goalkeeper may use his hands while he is in his own penalty area, and his uniform must contrast with those of the field players on both teams.

GOAL KICK Indirect free kick taken by a defending player from the defending team's goal area. A goal kick is awarded when a ball was last touched by the attacking team before going over the defending team's goal line (but not into the goal).

HALF-VOLLEY Kick taken just as the ball bounces off the ground.

HAND BALL A ball touched illegally by a player's hand or arm.

HEADING Use of the head; usually the forehead at the hairline to pass, shoot, clear or control the ball.

INDIRECT FREE KICK Usually awarded after a minor infraction, the ball is placed in a stationary position and may not be kicked directly into the opposition's goal without first being touched by another attacker.

KICKOFF A ball placed in the center spot at midfield and kicked forward by an attacking player; used to start the game at the beginning of each half and after a goal has been scored. A goal cannot be scored directly from a kickoff.

LINESMAN Two officials, each equipped with a flag, who assist the referee from the touchlines by signaling offsides, when a ball has gone out of bounds and when a foul has been committed. The referee may choose not to act on a lineman's call.

MARK Guarding an attacking player.

MIDFIELDER Player who ordinarily is positioned in front of the defenders and behind the forwards, whose primary responsibility is to create a link between the defenders and forwards. Also called "halfback."

NUTMEG A ball played by an attacking player between the legs of a marker and retrieved by the same attacking player.

OBSTRUCTION Action of a player who impedes an opponent by standing in or moving into his path without attempting to play the ball.

OFFSIDE Position of an attacking player if he is between his opponent's goal line and the ball when the ball is played unless he is on his own half of the field or two opponents are no farther from the goal line than the attacking player. A player cannot be offside if he receives the ball directly from a corner kick, goal kick, throw-in or drop ball situation.

OFFSIDE TRAP Maneuver by a defense whereby the defenders move toward the opposing team's goal during an attack by the opposition to catch at least one attacker in an offside position.

OVERLAP An attacking run by a defender that carries him past his own midfielders.

PENALTY KICK Direct free kick from the penalty spot after a major foul has been committed by the defending team in its own penalty area. The opposing goalkeeper must remain stationary on his goal line between the goal posts and all other players must be outside the penalty area; the ball is kicked by an attacking player.

OVERTIME AND PENALTY-KICK TIEBREAKER A feature of the A-League that comes into play when a match is tied after 90 minutes of regulation time. One extra period of 15 minutes is played; the match ends when a goal is scored. If no goal is scored, a penalty-kick tie-breaker is held. Each team takes five penalty kicks on an alternating basis. If the teams remain tied, the teams alternate penalty kicks until one team scores and the other fails to score.

REFEREE The official in charge of the match. Primary responsibilities are to protect the players and serve as official timekeeper.

SAVE A ball caught, deflected, or otherwise prevented by the goalkeeper from going into the goal.

SHIELD A dribbler who prevents an opponent from taking the ball by keeping himself between an opponent and the ball.

SHOT The kicking or heading of the ball toward the goal with the intention of scoring.

SQUARE PASS A lateral pass.

STOPPER A central defender whose primary responsibility is to mark the opposing center forward or striker.

SWEEPER A defender who is free to roam in front of and/or behind his team's defensive line.

TACKLE An attempt to dispossess an attacker of the ball. A common tackle is the slide tackle, which involves a sliding attempt to kick away the ball.

THROUGH PASS Pass that travels toward the goal between two or more defenders to a teammate, putting him in a position to score.

THROW-IN A throw executed by an attacking player from outside the touchline. A throw-in is awarded against the team that last touched the ball before it crossed a touchline. The player taking the throw-in must throw the ball onto the field over his head using both hands; he must also keep both feet on the ground either outside or on the touchline.

TRAP The use of the foot, thigh, chest, etc., by a player to bring a ball under control.

VOLLEY Kick taken before a ball bounces on the ground.

WALL A line of three or more players positioned at least ten yards from the ball; used to help defend against a free kick.

WALL PASS Pass in which an attacker sends the ball to a teammate (the "wall") who immediately plays the ball back to the attacker who has to run to an open space. Also called "give and go" or "one-two."

WING Area of the field near the touchlines.

WINGER An outside forward. Outside defenders are sometimes called "wingbacks."

4-4-2 A team formation that has four defenders, four midfielders, and two forwards.



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17	18	19	20	21	WOR	23
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CAL	22	23	24	CON	26	LI
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HOME GAMES — AWAY GAMES

JULY

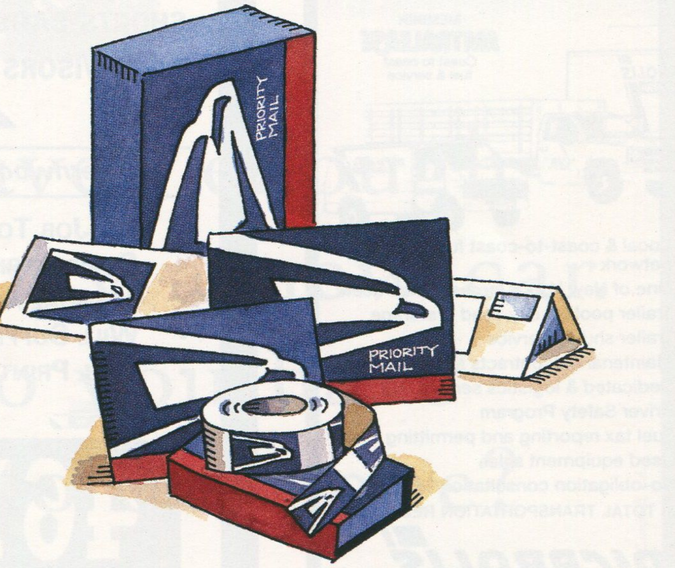
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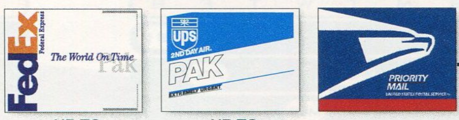
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SEPT

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MICHAEL KIRMSE

What does it take to be a great soccer player? To find out you can try to draw from corollaries with other sports. But, soccer is a different game where the results aren't always fair. It's a game where a team can dominate its opponent and still end up losing by two goals. So figuring out what makes a great soccer player won't simply come from what factors make a player great in other sports, but it's a good place to start.

Most people will name prolific scorers when you ask them to name a game's best athletes. Michael Jordan, Wayne Gretzky, and Barry Sanders are all considered the best in their game. Yet in soccer, Valderrama, Roberto Carlos, and Eddie Pope all belong among the game's elite and none are best known for their ability to find the back of the net. So scoring isn't the answer to what defines greatness.

Desire or heart is often used to describe what elevates a player to greatness. This argument seems crazy considering the millions of folks who would work day in and day out if they thought that they could make a living by playing sports. It may be a necessary factor, but talent is certainly a larger one. And, to define talent might be just as ambiguous as defining greatness.

So what can we agree on that all great players have in common? When the game starts they're the ones out in front of the crowd displaying their skills. So where does that leave you if you play on arguably the league's best team, have all the skills, speed and desire needed to start and star anywhere in the league and yet you still begin games on the bench? Welcome to the strange life of Michael Kirmse.

By: Justin Roj

Kirmse has watched most of the first 45 minutes of the Rhinos matches this season. This is a guy that has played internationally in soccer strongholds like Holland, Mexico, England, and Germany, and even has his own trademark just like Jordan's foul-line jam or Valderrama's deadly free kick: the Kirmse flipping throw-in.

He is known as a talented player with the ability to play all over the field, equally comfortable up front or in the back. Here's where the secret lies regarding Kirmse's status as a non-starter.

After watching a half of play, Head Coach Pat Ercoli can see where the team needs a boost and insert Kirmse where needed to confuse opponents and secure victories. This year, Kirmse has already entered matches as an attacker, midfielder, and a defender. The only place he hasn't seen action is between the pipes.

When you ask him about his ability to play all over the field, the former Clarkson University standout will tell you that he just wants to play where he can make the biggest contribution.

"I've been bounced around the field playing offense, midfield, or defense. It's about contributing where you need to contribute. Even though I feel most comfortable in the midfield, I'm glad to play where Pat needs me," says Kirmse.

The results speak for themselves - when he steps onto the field you can see his fellow Rhinos take notice and turn their games up a notch. "The guys began recognizing my speed when I came on and they came to me and said that I provided a boost," states Kirmse. A necessary boost for a team having an incredible season as a safeguard against complacency late in games.

Rhinos fans have noticed that added boost and its trademark, the flipping throw-in. Sure to start a craze in youth soccer leagues that'll scare moms half to death, Kirmse does a full flip while building energy to release booming and amazingly accurate throw-ins to his teammates. Along with signing autographs after games, Kirmse has to remind young fans to be careful when trying to replicate his signature move.

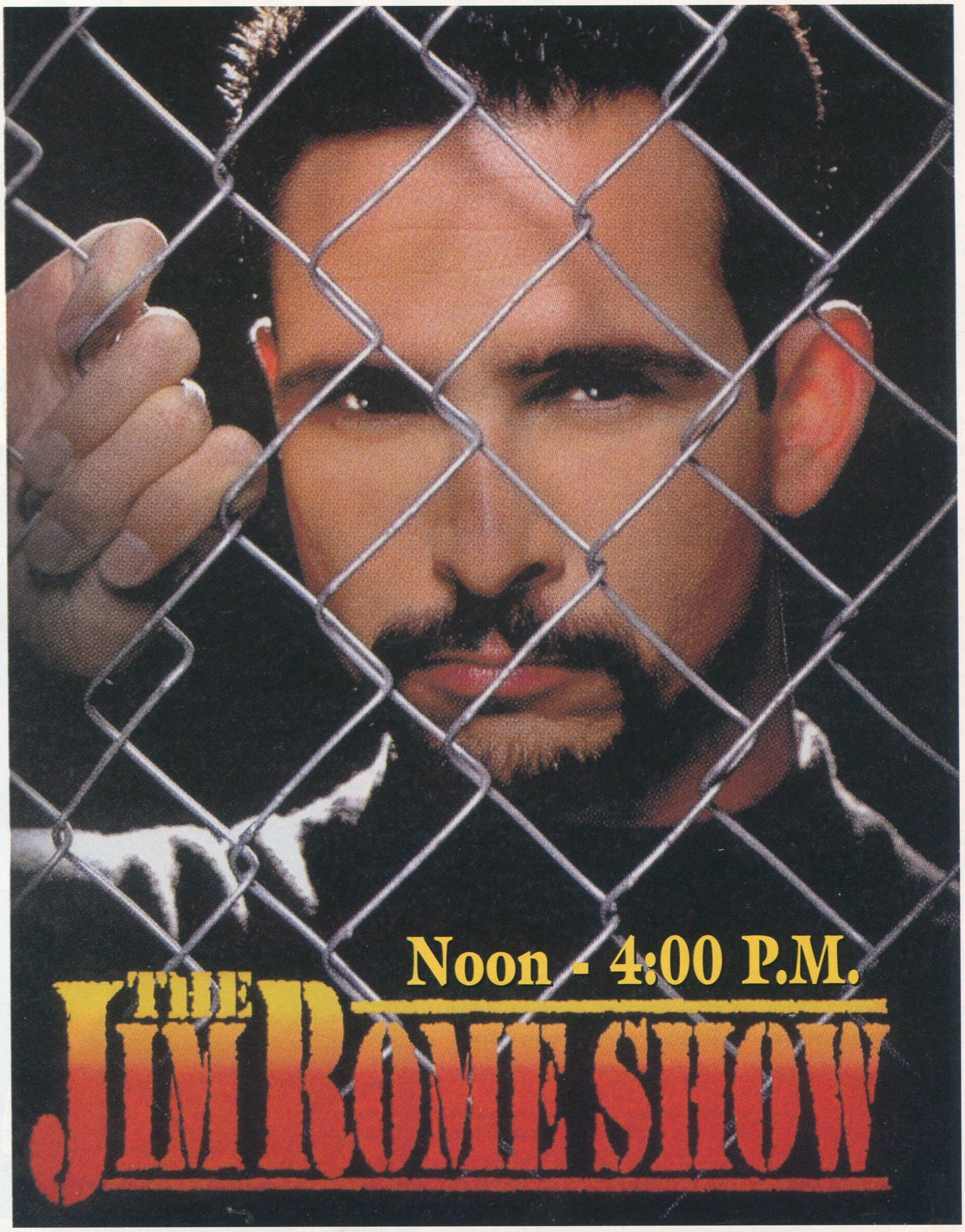
"It started when I was 14. I was active in a lot of sports, including gymnastics. So, with some encouragement from my Dad I decided to try it and eventually we got it to work," said Kirmse of his throw-in. Rhinos fans who have seen it definitely know it works and know that sometimes great players don't start, but come off of the bench.

Kirmse, comes into the game when it's still undecided, when the Rhinos are still fighting for a win. He provides a little extra with his versatility and his heart and puts the team over the top.

So maybe great players don't start. Maybe what great players like Michael Kirmse have in common is that they finish.



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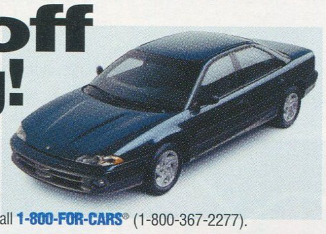
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COMMUNITY

The Rhinos and WDKX: A Partnership To Make A Difference

The partnership between the Rochester Rhinos and WDKX radio (103.9-FM) has already begun to yield a bountiful harvest in 1998. Back on June 19, fans donated 382 pounds of non-perishable food items to the Rhinos-WDKX-FoodLink food drive. With WDKX now on board, the 1998 food drive has a new energy source behind it, and the weekend of July 31 and August 1 should push this year's count past 1997's respectable total of 812 pounds.

The food drive is just one element of the community-service partnership that the Rhinos and WDKX have formed. Rhinos Mike Britton and Yari Allnutt have been offering their soccer advice, stories, and unique perspectives with the WDKX Wake-Up Club (led by hosts Todd Anderson and Mike Paz) each and every Wednesday morning from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. "It's a great opportunity," said Britton, an East High School graduate. "Todd and Mike always keep it fun, and Yari and I love being able to listen to the audience's opinions and thoughts about the Rhinos and soccer as a whole. We try and educate, but mostly we sit back and have a good time with WDKX and their listeners."

"The Rhinos are important in the community," shared Andrew Langston, owner of WDKX. "It's important that the players not only share their soccer skills and talent with the kids, but also their priorities on how to reach goals in life. Like our on-air talent at WDKX, the majority of Rhinos players have graduated from college. To go out into the Rochester community and share these experiences will make a difference."

The two players also share weekly soccer tips on the air, which serve as a nice complement to WDKX and FoodLink's visual player tips, which are played on the video scoreboard during each and every Rhinos home match. So far this season, fans have seen players like Yogi McKay explain the strategies behind a corner kick, Lenin Steenkamp show the basic fundamentals behind shooting on goal, and the acrobatic Michael Kirmse teaching the throw-in.

WDKX also continues to sponsor the "Coach's Corner", a joint effort to bring charitable organizations to Rhinos home matches by donating 25 tickets per match. "It's a chance to bring entire families together to enjoy a game in a nice setting like Frontier Field," said Langston. "It keeps the kids off the street and exposes them to the sport of soccer and the players, who hopefully can show them that hard work and diligence point the way to success."

The Rochester Raging Rhinos and WDKX are teaming up to make the game of soccer fun and exciting, and working together to make the Rochester community a better place to live.

140 teams. 6 leagues. 1 system. USISL.

In cities big and small across North America, youngsters dream of playing in the major leagues of professional sports. A fortunate few will realize that dream, but in most cases only after a long journey through the youth, high school and college ranks.

For decades, baseball players have been starting their professional careers in small towns all across the continent as they work their way through the system of major league affiliates on a path toward the "big show." Just as Major League Baseball has its own system of leagues across the USA, so does the USISL.

The United Systems of Independent Soccer Leagues, founded in 1986, provides the starting point for players working toward Major League Soccer, the top professional, or Division I, level in the United States.

Developing hometown heroes into the national and international soccer stars of tomorrow is what the USISL is all about.

Picture the various levels of soccer in the U.S. as an ascending pyramid, with MLS at the apex. The pyramid's entire support structure is the USISL.

With 132 adult outdoor teams in four separate leagues and 140 teams in all, the USISL is the second largest organization of sports leagues in the U.S., trailing only the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, a 155-team minor-league system.

The A-League, pro soccer's Division II in the U.S. which includes three teams in Canada, is just below MLS on the pyramid.

Expanded from 24 teams to 28 teams in 1998, the A-League is the home to dozens of rising stars who could go on to star in MLS, play abroad and eventually wear their nation's colors in international competition.

As part of the USISL's relationship with MLS, the 28th team in the A-League will be comprised entirely of Project-40 players from the MLS ranks that will travel from town to town to play each A-League team during the season.

The USISL's Division III Professional League is one step below the A-League and, as its name implies, is classified as a Division III league. With 39 teams set to compete in 1998, the D3 Pro League is often the first step in professional soccer for most players. Similar to A-League teams, D3 teams are official affiliates of MLS clubs.

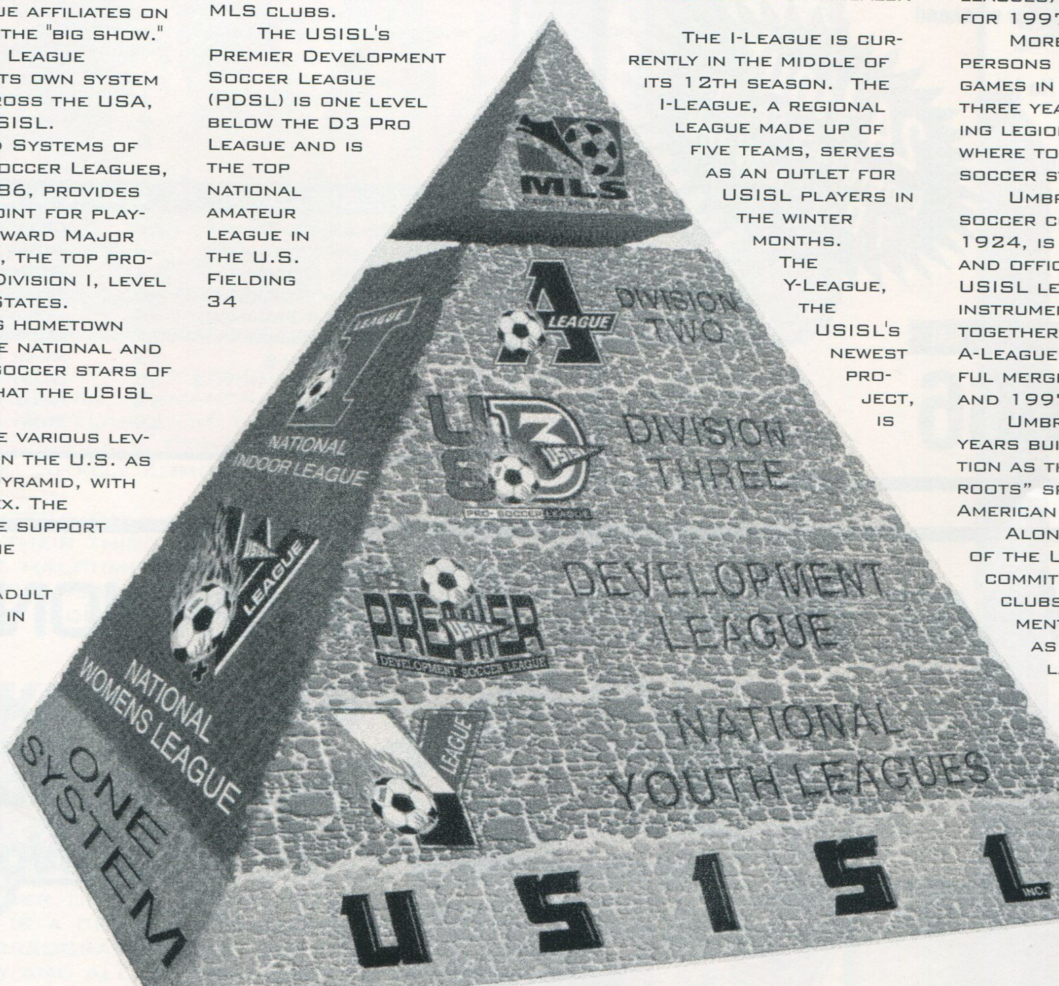
The USISL's Premier Development Soccer League (PDSL) is one level below the D3 Pro League and is the top national amateur league in the U.S. Fielding 34 teams in 1998, the PDSL offers players a chance to compete in a national league while maintaining their collegiate eligibility.

The USISL also operates a women's league, the W-League, an indoor men's league, the I-League, and is launching a youth league, the Y-League, this year.

The 32-team W-League, the only national adult soccer league for women, represents the highest level of competitive women's soccer in the United States and includes both current and former college players.

Due to the tremendous growth and success of the W-League since its inception in 1994, the league has split into two divisions for 1998: a 15-team W-1, or elite, division and a 17-team W-2 division.

With the off-season signing of superstar Michelle Akers and many other U.S. National Team players, both the level of play and the notoriety of the W-League have increased dramatically.



The I-League is currently in the middle of its 12th season. The I-League, a regional league made up of five teams, serves as an outlet for USISL players in the winter months.

The Y-League, the USISL's newest project, is set to launch in 1998 with two age groups for boys, with more on the way. The program is intended to expand across the nation over the next few years .

"For the first time in North American soccer history, we now have in place under one roof- USISL, Inc. - a system representing all levels of soccer," said USISL, Inc. President Francisco Marcos, who founded USISL 12 years ago.

The USISL first went outdoors in 1989, but indoor members still outnumbered the outdoor teams 18-17 in 1991. The number of outdoor teams first surpassed the indoor teams in 1992, when there were 21 outdoor clubs.

A growth explosion followed, with 43 outdoor teams in 1993, 72 in 1994, 96 in 1995 (split into professional and amateur divisions for men and adding the first full season of the W-League for women), 106 teams in 1996 (when there were three men's outdoor leagues) and 125 teams for 1997.

More than one million persons attended USISL games in each of the past three years, part of a growing legion of fans who know where to find tomorrow's soccer stars today.

Umbro, the international soccer company born in 1924, is the proud sponsor and official supplier of all USISL leagues. Umbro was instrumental in bringing together the USISL and the A-League for their successful merger between the 1996 and 1997 seasons.

Umbro has through the years built a strong reputation as the leading "grassroots" sponsor of the American game.

Along with their support of the USISL, Umbro is also committed to top youth clubs, regional tournaments, college teams, as well as the world's largest soccer coaches organization in the United States.

Umbro's vast knowledge of the equipment needs of soccer players, its commitment to excellence, and its dedication to producing the very best soccer products, are major factors in the company's emergence as a complete soccer resource and the No. 1 soccer apparel company in the United States.

Together, USISL and Umbro are building a legacy.

Building A Legacy

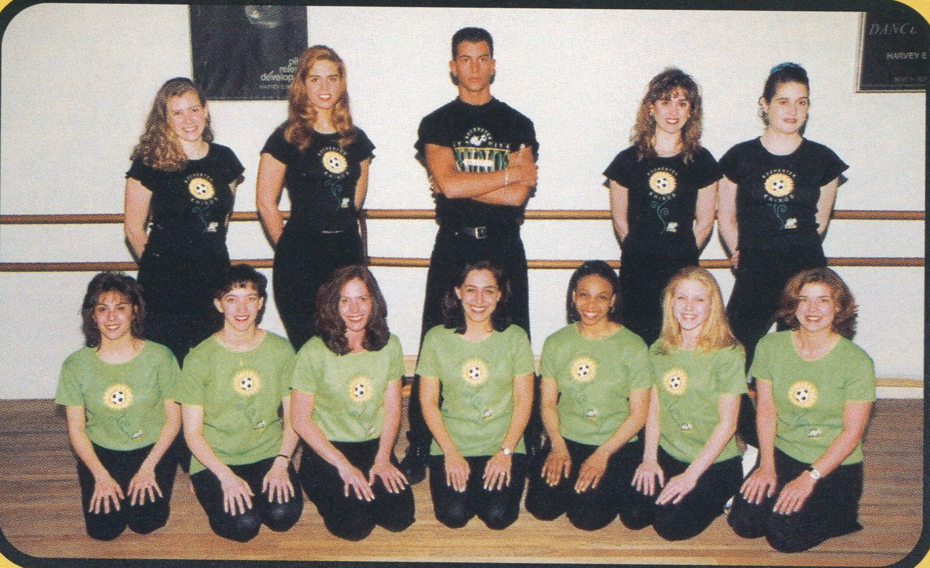
Rochester Raging Rhinos

1996 & 1997 Career Leaders

Goals		Points	
41	Doug Miller	89	Doug Miller
13	Jimmy Glenn	34	Jimmy Glenn
9	Lenin Steenkamp	27	Lenin Steenkamp
4	Kofi Debrah	17	Tommy Tanner
4	Henry Gutierrez	16	Henry Gutierrez
4	Hector Marinaro	15	Hector Marinaro
4	Rene Rivas	12	Rene Rivas
4	Paul Young	10	Kofi Debrah
3	3 are tied with 3	9	Nikola Vignjevic
		8	Paul Young

Assists		Games Started	
11	Tommy Tanner	55	Billy Andracki
9	Lenin Steenkamp	45	Doug Miller
8	Jimmy Glenn	44	Tommy Tanner
8	Henry Gutierrez	38	Yogi McKay
7	Hector Marinaro	38	Lenin Steenkamp
7	Doug Miller	37	Fuseini Dauda
4	Rene Rivas	35	Rene Rivas
3	5 are tied with 3	35	Gustavo Villagra
		32	Rene Rivas
		32	Yuriy Smotrich

RHINO RAGE



THE RAGE ARE: (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER) JENNIFER ALFIERI, MARNI CARFLEY, ERIC CLARK, SAMANTHA DIPAOLA, DANIELLE DODGE, KARLEEN EVANS, ANN E. FREELING, RAE INSALACO, TIKI KEHOE, KESHA MCFADDEN, JENNIFER OBI, MICHELLE PFEIFER, DANIKA ROJ, JENNIFER SAMORANSKI, ANDORRA SHEK, SHALLY ZOMORODI

ROCHESTER'S ONLY PROFESSIONAL SPORTS DANCE TEAM, THE RAGE ARE BACK FOR THEIR THIRD SEASON OF ENTERTAINING SOCCER FANS BEFORE GAMES AND AT HALFTIME WITH THEIR HIGH-ENERGY DANCE ROUTINES. THE RAGE ARE ALSO AMBASSADORS FOR THE RHINOS, ATTENDING MANY AREA CHARITABLE AND PROMOTIONAL EVENTS.

Rochester's Only Professional Sports Dance Team

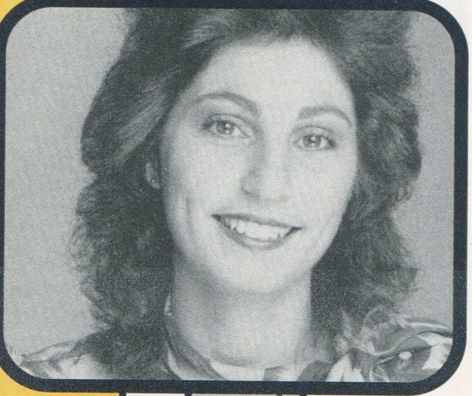
LUCY VAN ORDEN

CHOREOGRAPHER

THIS FORMER COACH OF THE ROCHESTER FLASH CHEERLEADERS JOINS THE RAGE THIS SUMMER AS THE NEW CHOREOGRAPHER, AND HER LIST OF CREDENTIALS IS AN IMPRESSIVE ONE. LUCY VAN ORDEN IS THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE DANCEARAMA, WHICH SHE ALSO OWNED FOR 15 YEARS. SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE DANCE MASTERS AND DANCE EDUCATORS OF AMERICA, AND IS A CERTIFIED AEROBICS INSTRUCTOR. SHE IS CURRENTLY ALSO THE CHOREOGRAPHER OF THE FOCUS INTERNATIONAL TALENT AND MODEL AGENCY AND ALL OF THEIR ROCHESTER-AREA MALL FASHION SHOWS.

IN ADDITION, MS. VAN ORDEN IS A FACULTY MEMBER AT THE ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS CENTER. ALL IN ALL, SHE HAS TAUGHT DANCE FOR OVER 20 YEARS AND MANY OF HER STUDENTS HAVE WON SCHOLARSHIPS TO DANCE COLLEGES AND POSITIONS WITH MANY MAJOR DANCE COMPANIES. HER STUDENTS HAVE ALSO WON MAJOR DANCE AND PAGEANT TITLES ON A NATIONAL LEVEL.

VAN ORDEN AND HER HUSBAND FRED FOUNDED AND CO-DIRECTED THE NEW YORK DANCE OLYMPICS. TOGETHER AS A TEAM, THEY HAVE PERFORMED AND APPEARED IN TELEVISION COMMERCIALS AND ON THE POPULAR PROGRAM "DANCE FEVER."



STADIUM Q&A

By: Al Louis

The Rochester Raging Rhinos have begun a serious bid to join Major League Soccer in the near future. Since the team was inaugurated in 1996, the Rhinos have the led the A-League in attendance every season, averaging over 10,000 fans per game. This season the Rhinos are averaging close to 11,000 fans per game, more than two MLS clubs.

To be able to join Major League Soccer, the Rhinos must have a stadium that seats a minimum of 20,000. MLS also requires that the stadium is not shared with a professional baseball team. The Rhinos organization is currently investigating funding for a new multi-purpose facility that would host the Rhinos, as well as other events like high school and college sports, concerts, shows, festivals and national and international sporting events.

The following are questions and answers for the inquisitive fan, or "everything you wanted to know about the Rhinos bid for Major League Soccer and a new stadium, but were afraid to ask."

How much taxpayer money will be used for the new stadium?

The State of New York has approximately $425,000,000 (that's 425 million dollars) in taxpayer money that is in a separate "stadium fund" for facilities in New York State. That money is only allocated for sports facility usage and the Rhinos have approached the State of New York for help in funding the new stadium. That money will be used somewhere in New York State for stadiums - the Rhinos would like to have a significant amount earmarked for the new stadium in Rochester. In layman's terms, if the Rhinos do not try to secure that money for a stadium in Rochester, then "our" tax money will be spent in another part of the state for another stadium.

Is the price of Rhinos season tickets or individual game tickets going to increase with a new stadium/move to Major League Soccer?

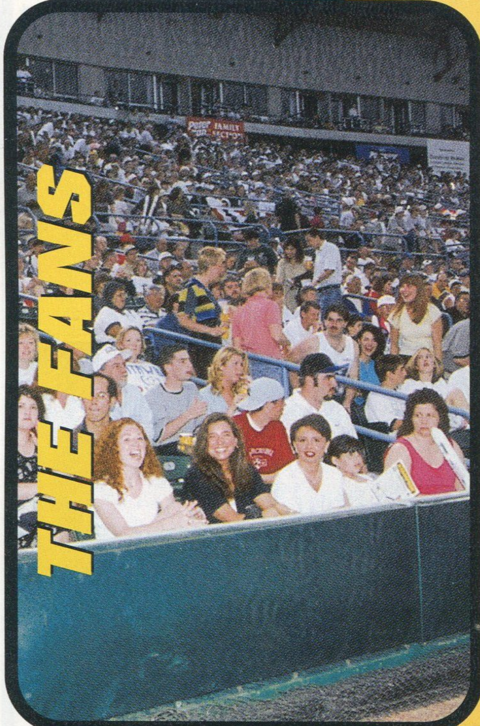
With a new 20,000 to 25,000-seat stadium, the Rhinos will be able to stretch ticket prices out - some ticket locations will increase, others will stay the same. The Rhinos will also have the capability to start new and less expensive ticket programs because of the amount of new seats. For example - $99 dollar season tickets and special seating sections. This season, the Rhinos tickets are $8-$16 dollars - the organization fully expects to keep an $8 dollar ticket for years to come.

Where will the new stadium be located?

The Rhinos would like to keep the stadium centrally located in the downtown-area, possibly near the High Falls district to keep the entertainment synergy going. A specific location has not been addressed formally.

What about parking?

As with any new stadium, parking issues will be addressed accordingly during the design of the stadium. If the stadium is built near High Falls, then some of the same parking for Frontier Field will be used.



Will the stadium be used only for Rhinos soccer?

The stadium will be designed for multi-purpose use for both athletic and entertainment purposes. Rhinos soccer, hopefully Ravens soccer, high school and college soccer as well as possible U.S. National teams (men's & women's) soccer will be scheduled for the stadium. High school and college football, other high school and college sports, national outdoor men's and women's lacrosse, field hockey and other outdoor sports will be booked, as well as concerts, fairs, shows and other entertainment promotions. A track & field design has been talked about around the field proper.

When will the new stadium be built?

That all depends on when the funding for construction is set, along with site location and design of the building.

What are the Rhinos chances for Major League Soccer?

MLS Commissioner Doug Logan has stated on the record that Rochester will need to build an MLS-regulation (20,000 seat minimum) stadium in the future to receive an MLS expansion team. The Rhinos have always stated in their mission statement that the organization will always aspire to be "the best we can be at the highest level".

How can the Rhinos be competitive in the MLS as a medium-sized market team?

With a new stadium, the Rhinos will assume control over concessions and in-stadium signage - something the team does not currently have in its lease with Frontier Field and the Red Wings. This will allow more money-flow for the team to help in the cost of running a premier soccer club.

Will the Rhinos be able to keep the same players?

The MLS will assign 4-5 foreign/marquee players to the team. The Rhinos hope to keep some players from the current roster, and other MLS-caliber players will fill out the roster.

How is the financial future of the MLS?

The league and team investors have a long-term plan that is being carried out. The league investors are committed to a 10-year and beyond plan. And we're talking billionaire owners here, not millionaires.


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